

Occasional
Monographs

7

ICSSR

**ROLE,
RESPONSIBILITIES,
FUNCTIONS,
PROGRAMMES
& ORGANIZATION
OF THE ICSSR**

**A POLICY STATEMENT
AND A SPECIAL REPORT**

**by J.P. NAIK
Member-Secretary, ICSSR**

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PROGRAMMES AND ORGANIZATION
OF THE ICSSR**

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AND

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J.P. NAIK

Member-Secretary, ICSSR

**INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
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FOREWORD

When the Indian Council of Social Science Research was established two years ago, it had three main documents to guide the development of its policies and programmes: the Report of the Social Science Research Committee, the Government Resolution constituting the Council, and the speech of Prof. V.K.R.V. Rao, the then Education Minister, while inaugurating the Council. While adopting these as the basis of its policies and programmes to begin with, the Council decided that a debate on the role, responsibilities, functions, programmes and organisation of the Council should be continued (with special emphasis on as wide an involvement of the academic community as possible) and that the entire problem should be reviewed again at the end of two years.

Several steps were accordingly taken. With a view to availing ourselves of the experience of social science research councils in U.K. and U.S.A., invitations were extended to Dr. Pendleton-Herring, Mr. Andrew Shonfield and Prof. A.B. Cherns to visit India. In the course of their tour in India, they visited a number of centres and met leading social scientists. They have submitted valuable reports which have since been published for general information. The Council also published a draft policy statement (which has been included in the last annual report) and invited comments and suggestions thereon from all concerned. It also organised a series of seminars, in which more than a thousand social scientists have participated, to discuss the problem relating to the role, functions, programmes and organisation of the ICSSR. A number of the relevant issues were also discussed, formally and informally, in the meetings of the Council. On the basis of all these discussions, Shri J.P. Naik, the Member-Secretary of the Council, prepared

a detailed and comprehensive report for the consideration of the Council.

The proposals in this Report were discussed by the Council in its meetings held on 20th and 21st August and 1st October, 1971, when it finalised its Statement of Policy on "The Role, Responsibilities, Functions, Programmes and Organisation of the Indian Council of Social Science Research". The text of this statement has been reproduced in the pages that follow for general information. The report of the Member-Secretary has also been reproduced in full as an Annexure.

I take this opportunity to thank all the social scientists and institutions which participated in the nation-wide debate organised on these issues and helped the Council to finalise its policies and programmes.

New Delhi
2nd October, 1971

M.S. GORE
Chairman
ICSSR

ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES, FUNCTIONS,
PROGRAMMES AND ORGANIZATION
OF THE ICSSR
—A POLICY STATEMENT

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THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES, FUNCTIONS, PROGRAMMES AND ORGANIZATION

Objectives

The primary objective of the Indian Council of Social Science Research is to promote research in social sciences and to facilitate its utilization. To this end, it will strive to identify and develop research talent, provide support to research projects and programmes of quality, build up the essential infra-structure including clearing house facilities, and promote the development of professional organisations of social scientists.

Functions

The functions of the Council have been defined as follows in its Memorandum of Association:

- (i) To review the progress of social science research and to give advice to its users in Government or outside;
- (ii) To sponsor social science research programmes as well as research projects, and administer grants to institutions and individuals for research in social sciences; and to give financial support to learned associations, standard journals and institutions, or organisations engaged in the conduct or sponsoring of social science research;
- (iii) To provide technical assistance for the formulation of social science research programmes and designing of research projects by individuals or institutions, and to organise and support institutional arrangement for training in research methodology;

- (iv) To indicate periodically areas and topics on which social science research is to be promoted and to adopt special measures for the development of research in neglected or new areas;
- (v) To coordinate research activities in the field of social sciences and to encourage programmes of inter-disciplinary research;
- (vi) To develop and support centres for documentation services, maintenance and supply of data, inventory of current social science research and preparation of national register of social scientists;
- (vii) To organise, sponsor and finance seminars, workshops, study circles, working groups/parties, and conferences for promoting research or utilisation of social science research;
- (viii) To give grants for publication of social science research work and to undertake publication of digests, periodicals and journals devoted to such research;
- (ix) To institute and administer scholarships, fellowships, and awards for social science research by students, teachers and other research workers in India or outside; and in particular, to award senior fellowships for research in social sciences that will enable workers in universities to complete their research work for publication or undertake whole-time research for a defined period on topics in which they are specially interested and for doing research on which they are specially qualified;
- (x) To advise the Government of India on all such matters pertaining to social science research as may be referred to it by the Government of India from time to time, including collaborative arrangements in social science research with foreign agencies; and

- (xi) Generally to take all such measures as may be found necessary from time to time to promote social science research and its utilisation in the country.

Scope

The scope of social sciences covers the disciplines of (1) Economics (including Commerce), (2) Education, (3) Management (including Business Administration), (4) Political Science (including International Relations), (5) Psychology, (6) Public Administration, and (7) Sociology (including Criminology and Social Work). In addition, the Council will also be concerned with the social science aspects of the disciplines of (1) Anthropology, (2) Demography, (3) Geography, (4) History, (5) Law, and (6) Linguistics.

Roles

The roles of the Council flow from its basic objectives, namely, to promote research in social sciences and its utilisation.

The Responsive Role : Research in social sciences, being a creative endeavour, requires freedom and initiative on the part of the individual scholar. The Council will, therefore, respond with understanding and sympathy to the initiative of social scientists in the promotion of research.

The Promotional Role : In addition, the Council also has an important promotional role in social science research. This may be directed to any or all of the following objectives :

- (a) To identify research talent, especially among the younger group of social scientists, and to provide it with opportunities of optimum growth through financial support in the form of fellowships and grants-in-aid for training, publications, research projects or programmes;
- (b) To promote excellence in research by supporting individual scholars and centres of proven worth;
- (c) To broad-base research activity by providing support

to promising social scientists in out-of-the-way places and new centres of research activity in the comparatively neglected parts of the country;

- (d) Whenever necessary, to take initiative even to formulate collaborative research proposals and to entrust them to competent scholars working in different research centres;
- (e) To conduct surveys of research in different fields of social sciences from time to time;
- (f) To identify research gaps and major problems of relevance and significance; and to make special efforts to promote research programmes in such priority areas, especially by stimulating discussion on priorities in research so that the initiative of social scientists operates more meaningfully in the context of problems facing the country; and
- (g) To identify and promote the development of critical areas in social sciences (*cutting edges*).

It may be pointed out that, while the Council will invest a larger portion of its funds in priority areas, grants will continue to be available for research in other areas also. It shall be the endeavour of the Council to ensure that no good research proposal is denied financial support on the only ground that it falls within a 'non-priority' area.

The Coordinating and Supplementing Role : The Council believes that it is desirable to have a multiple-source financing system for research in social sciences. It, therefore, welcomes the existence of other agencies which sponsor or support research in social sciences; and to make this multiplicity really meaningful, it recommends the establishment of a convention between different sources of financial support that a research proposal turned down by one source will not be rejected by another on that ground alone. For its own part, the Council desires to maintain close relations with all the different agencies,

official and non-official, which provide financial support for social science research and thus perform a clearing house function. This will enable it to plan its own programme in a complementary manner.

The Advisory Role : The Council is required to advise the Government of India on all such matters pertaining to social science research as may be referred to it from time to time, including collaborative arrangements in social science research with foreign agencies.

It also functions as a certifying authority under Section 35 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, in respect of exemption of donations in support of social science research.

In all its programmes, the Council desires to adopt a non-competitive policy. It shall not undertake any research programme under its direct auspices nor establish any research institutions or centres of its own. It shall not undertake any activity which a university or a research institution seems better able to perform. Nor shall it continue to operate a programme which it had accepted at one time but which, owing to changed circumstances, can be advantageously transferred to some university or other institution. It will strive to limit its direct activities to a few programmes in which the rationale of such action is justified on rigorous criteria of economy and efficiency.

Special Responsibilities

In view of their significance, the Council will lay special emphasis on certain programmes which would otherwise tend to be neglected, viz., inter-disciplinary research and comparative studies, inter-regional collaboration with special emphasis on communication between social scientists from different linguistic regions; closer linkage between users and producers of social science research; and international collaboration, especially in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Programmes

In the light of its basic objectives, functions, roles and special responsibilities, the Council has formulated a number of programmes, some of which have been briefly indicated in the paragraphs that follow.

RESEARCH SURVEYS

Two years ago, the Council initiated the ICSSR Research Survey Scheme, 1970, under which all important research work done so far in different fields of social sciences has been surveyed with a view to identifying trends and research gaps, determining priorities and selecting programmes for special promotional effort in the future. The results of the survey are being published in a series of uniform volumes.

It is also proposed to continue this effort through the publication of annual reviews in different social science disciplines. Each such annual review will cover such aspects of each discipline as may be decided from time to time and the entire discipline will be covered in a period of not more than five years. A detailed scheme for this programme will be prepared in consultation with the Standing Committees and the first annual review will be commissioned for 1970, 1971 and 1972.

The following three supplementary programmes will also be developed :

- (i) Proposals for research surveys in depth may either be sanctioned or sponsored in sub-fields for which no surveys were carried out in the Research Survey Scheme, 1970, or in sub-fields where, for some reason or the other, the surveys carried out earlier do not come up to the required standards, or on research built round a theme (s), as distinguished from a sub-field of a discipline.
- (ii) Surveys of research reported in the different Indian languages will also be undertaken.

- (iii) Collaborative programmes with UGC will be developed to ensure that the findings of social science research get reflected in teaching at the under-graduate and post-graduate levels.

IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TALENT

For identification and development of research talent, which is one of the major responsibilities of the Council, a number of programmes have been designed.

(i) *Study Grants* : With a view to helping research students, it is proposed to make study grants available to enable them to visit any university/centre/library where reference materials for their research are available. The grants would cover travel and maintenance costs at a prescribed rate. It is also hoped that it will be possible to share the expenditure on these grants with the universities concerned.

(ii) *Doctoral Fellowships* : The Council has decided to institute a modest programme of doctoral fellowships. But care will be taken to see that the scheme really supplements the programme of the UGC Fellowships. The main criteria for award will be, in order of significance, the theme on which the student is working, his ability and the competence of the guide. Special consideration will be shown to students who have done good work and are likely to complete the thesis in a year or two. A percentage of the scholarships will be reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The amount and conditions of these fellowships will be the same as that of the doctoral fellowships programme of the UGC. However, teachers of affiliated colleges who get the award will be entitled to draw their actual emoluments, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 900 p.m.

(iii) *Post-Doctoral Fellowships* : The main criteria for the award will be the significance of the theme and the competence of the student. The amount and conditions of these Fellowships will be the same as in the similar programme under the UGC.

The applications for these fellowships would have to be submitted within three years of the date of award of the Ph.D. degree. This condition may, however, be relaxed in the case of housewives.

(iv) *ICSSR Research Fellowships* : These will be available at the lecturer's, reader's and professor's levels. As the essential idea underlying these awards is to buy time, persons out of employment will not be eligible to apply. In awarding these fellowships, preference will be given to young social scientists of promise irrespective of status.

(v) *National Fellowships* : The ICSSR has instituted six national fellowships, at the level of senior professors, to social scientists who have made a significant contribution to their disciplines. The award will be made solely on merit and irrespective of age or status.

All fellowships of the Council will be open only to persons who are working on a problem whose social science content is high and who, in the opinion of the Council, are qualified to conduct such research.

RESEARCH GRANTS

The research grants of the Council shall be administered solely on the criteria of quality, subject to the following broad reservations :

- (a) Special emphasis shall be laid on programmes of priority and significance;
- (b) A portion of the available funds may be set aside to assist young and talented research workers who are within five years of the award of their doctoral degree; and
- (c) Some funds may also be set aside to assist promising research workers or institutions in out-of-the-way places with a view to broad-basing social science

research. In such cases, the Council will also try to provide the necessary professional guidance.

Grant-in-aid for research will be available for all such research projects and programmes whose social science content is high, irrespective of whether the discipline to which they technically belong is or is not to be included within the scope of social sciences, either fully or partly. It will not, however, be extended, unless there are special reasons to the contrary, to areas which are covered by other Central agencies which give such grant-in-aid.

The following are the types of research support the Council can provide :

(i) *Teachers' Awards* : A grant-in-aid not exceeding Rs. 5,000 may be made to a teacher to enable him to carry out any worthwhile research project on which he may have been engaged or in which he is interested. Requests coming from teachers of affiliated colleges will be given special consideration.

(ii) *Research Projects* : The *ad hoc* research project, which is at present the sole category of research grants administered, will continue to be emphasised as an important tool for promoting research.

(iii) *Research Programmes* : The assistance of the Council will also be available to research programmes on themes of significance and priority. The duration of the programme will ordinarily be three to five years. The main criteria for sanctioning a programme will include : the competence of the project director, the significance and quality of the proposal, and the quality and atmosphere of the institution. The grant-in-aid to a research programme may also include a provision for one or more fellowships.

(iv) *Secondary Analysis* : The Council desires to encourage secondary analysis of data, wherever possible and desirable.

Grants-in-aid for such projects will be given on a professional basis and they will be treated as being outside the limit prescribed for the total number of research projects which an institution can have.

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that grants-in-aid to research proposals (or to all categories of proposals in fact) are sanctioned promptly, objectively and on merit. To this end, it has formulated a Research Grants Scheme. In the light of the experience gained in the last two years, it has now been suitably revised. The scheme will continue to be periodically reviewed and revised when necessary. The Council will also maintain an adequate machinery to deal effectively with all the research (and other) proposals received.

ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN SOCIAL SCIENTISTS FOR RESEARCH ABROAD

The Council will provide fellowships and research grants to Indian social scientists desiring to do research in developing countries, especially in Asia and Africa. Special consideration will be given to social scientists desiring to undertake such research as a part of their post-doctoral work. An adequate knowledge of the language of the country in which such research or studies are to be conducted, will be a necessary condition of the award. Assistance will also be given to Indian students who work for a doctoral degree in other developing countries.

The Council will strive, through the existing bilateral agreements, to enable Indian social scientists to do research in the industrially advanced countries.

OVERSEAS SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

The Council will provide information and guidance to overseas social scientists who want to do research in India, in formulating their proposals, getting affiliation to an Indian institution with whom they will be working and in obtaining the necessary clearances from official agencies.

The Council will also provide fellowships and research grants for social scientists from developing countries who desire to do research in India. A special programme of doctoral fellowships will be instituted for such social scientists.

ASIAN RESEARCH

The Council will strive to promote research on countries and problems of the Asian region (including Oceania). It will set up an Advisory Committee on Asian Research, maintain close contacts with institutions and centres in India engaged in Asian research, and function as a clearing house of all research done in India in this field. It will also maintain close working relations with research centres and institutions abroad which are engaged in Asian research.

PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN INDIAN AND OVERSEAS SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

The Council will strive to promote closer contacts between Indian and overseas social scientists. To this end, it will make supplementary grants available to Indian social scientists, who have been invited abroad, to spend some time at selected centres or to meet leading social scientists. It will also invite eminent social scientists from abroad to deliver lectures and conduct seminars and to spend some time at important selected centres in India.

The Council will try to promote collaborative research between Indian and overseas social scientists, especially in those areas where such collaboration will be of significance or help in improving research skills of Indian social scientists. The collaboration, however, must be genuine and earnest and must cover the entire period from the planning of the project to its final conclusion.

PUBLICATION GRANTS

The Council will provide grants for publication of research documents whose social science content is high. The grant-in-aid for the publication of a doctoral thesis will be subject to a

ceiling of 75% of the cost of production or Rs. 3,000, whichever is less. In the case of other research documents, the ceiling will be 75% of cost of production or Rs. 1,500, whichever is less. The copyright of all such publications shall vest in the author, who will be required to supply 25 copies of the publication to the Council, free of charge, and also to mention the following two points in the publication : (1) the publication of the book was financially supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research; and (2) the responsibility for the facts stated, opinions expressed or conclusions reached, is entirely that of the author and that the Indian Council of Social Science Research accepts no responsibility for them.

TRAINING IN RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Council will, in collaboration with the UGC, strive to improve training in research methodology in the social science disciplines at the undergraduate and postgraduate stages. It may also organise training courses and summer institutes for teachers, doctoral students and others in need of such training.

NATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE, NEW DELHI

The Council has established a National Social Science Documentation Centre at New Delhi in collaboration with the Jawaharlal Nehru University. The major activities which have been undertaken by the Centre include: (a) building up a collection of reference materials, especially micro-film and micro-fiche materials, which would be a net additional national asset; (b) collection of all doctoral theses in social sciences approved by Indian universities from 1970 onwards; (c) data library; and (d) a reprographic unit. The Centre is also in charge of the Council's major project of compiling a Union Catalogue of Social Science Serials. It is proposed that the Centre should also develop a repository function in respect of old volumes of social science serials which it will accept for deposit from any collaborating library. The Centre will hold such

volumes in trust on behalf of the cooperating library, maintain them in good condition and make them available to all research workers. The Centre will also operate a Scheme of Study Grants which has been described earlier. For the administration and development of the Centre, a Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

REGIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The Council has also decided, in principle, to set up regional centres for social science documentation which will function on lines similar to those of the National Social Science Documentation Centre, New Delhi. Ultimately, a regional centre will be established in every State and it is hoped that the programme would be completed during the next five years. Each regional centre will be located on the campus of a selected university and it will have a committee of management consisting of the various universities and research institutions within the region. It is also proposed to involve the State Governments and to seek their assistance for the establishment and running of these regional centres.

UNION CATALOGUE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE SERIALS

One of the major projects undertaken by the Council is to compile a union catalogue of social science serials which will cover all disciplines included within its scope, wholly or partially. Preliminary work in this direction was done in 1970-71 and the compilation of the catalogue has been started in earnest from 1971-72. It is hoped that the programme will be completed in three years.

SOURCE MATERIALS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

There are valuable source materials in social science research, especially in Indian languages, at the State, district and block levels. It is proposed to develop a programme of collecting the more significant of these materials in such a manner

that they could be available for use to social scientists. Full use will be made of existing agencies and organisations which are engaged in this programme, the Council playing a catalytic professional role. Where necessary, a small programme to this end may also be developed through the Regional Social Science Documentation Centres or, until these centres come into existence, in agreement with selected institutions in each linguistic region.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES: DATA LIBRARIES

The Council has decided to develop a comprehensive network of bibliographical and documentation services in all the social sciences which will supplement those provided by the National and Regional Social Science Documentation Centres. These services will be developed, wherever possible, in collaboration with professional organisations of social scientists. The arrangements for their publication will, as far as possible, be developed through the usual commercial channels.

For these services, the Council will appoint an editor in each discipline (or part of a discipline) for a specified period, who will be responsible for bringing out the publication relating to the bibliographical and documentation services within his field. He will work in collaboration with a network of selected centres, where the bibliographical and documentation work shall be conducted on the broad pattern prescribed by the Council.

The Council may also assist institutions or centres for provision of bibliographical and documentation services in selected fields for which they have special facilities, and in which they have established a tradition and expertise.

The Council will also promote a programme of data libraries under the guidance of an Advisory Committee on Data Utilisation. The object of the programme is to ensure that more and more data is made available to social scientists and that the available data is more intensively utilized. The Council will also establish a data library of its own in the National Social Science

Documentation Centre and will provide grants-in-aid to other data libraries set up by universities and research institutions. It shall be the endeavour of the Council to ensure that all data libraries in the country function as parts of a unified, well-planned and co-ordinated programme.

The financial support of the Council will be extended only to such bibliographical and documentation services and data libraries as are related to disciplines which fall completely within its scope. The Council may, however, also give support to such services in other disciplines that fall partially within its scope.

CLEARING HOUSE SERVICES (INCLUDING PUBLICATIONS)

With regard to student research, the Council will provide the following clearing house services in collaboration with the Inter-University Board of India and Ceylon :

- (i) Publication of lists of all doctoral theses in social sciences approved by Indian Universities from the inception of the universities to 31st December, 1967;
- (ii) Publication of lists of all doctoral theses in social sciences approved by Indian universities in subsequent years on a yearly basis;
- (iii) Publication of the synopses of all doctoral theses in social sciences approved by Indian universities till 31st December, 1969;
- (iv) Publication of the synopses of all doctoral theses in social sciences approved by Indian universities in subsequent years on a yearly basis; and
- (v) Publication of the list of students registered for the doctoral degree in social sciences in Indian universities and also the list of students registered for the M.A. degree in social sciences in Indian universities (where a thesis is submitted in fulfilment of the entire requirements of the degree) every three years, beginning with 1969.

The Council will also collect and publish information about non-student research in social sciences on a biennial basis.

The Council may compile a National Register of Social Scientists in such form as may be prescribed and publish it periodically. It will cover the disciplines of Anthropology, Demography, Economics (including Commerce), Education, Geography, History, Law, Linguistics, Management, Political Science (including International Relations), Public Administration, Psychology and Sociology (including Criminology and Social Work). In Education, however, the programme will not cover school teachers. In Law, it will cover only teachers of University Departments of Law and Law Colleges and researchers in Law.

The Council will also publish a Directory of Research Institutions, which are outside the university system, on a biennial basis.

CONTACTS WITH OVERSEAS ORGANISATIONS

The Council will strive to maintain close contacts (including exchange of visits and publications) with social science research councils in other countries and with important social science research institutions in India.

PUBLICATION SERVICES

The Council will publish a quarterly 'Newsletter' and circulate it to all universities, social science departments in universities, affiliated colleges having post-graduate courses in social sciences, research institutions, Ministries of the Government of India, State Governments, etc. It will also be supplied to any individual or organisation on request.

The Council will also bring out, from time to time, such non-priced and priced publications as may be required for its clearing house responsibilities. The Council will enter into agreements with well-established publishers for the production, sale and distribution of its priced publications.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

The Council will work in close collaboration with professional organisations of social scientists in the promotion of social science research. It has formulated proposals for giving small development grants for a specified period to these organisations and will also help them to publish journals. It will collaborate with them in the provision of documentation and bibliographical services and in the compilation of the National Register of Social Scientists. The Council may also publish a Directory of Professional Organisations of Social Scientists on a biennial basis.

DISSEMINATION & UTILISATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

The Council will disseminate and promote better utilisation of social science research. Apart from publications and clearing house services organised to this end, the Council will also strive to promote user-producer linkages.

SOCIAL STATISTICS, SOCIAL INDICATORS AND SOCIAL REPORT

The Council will promote the generation of better data in social sciences, a programme of social indicators in different fields and the compilation of a periodical report on the society as a whole.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PROGRAMMES OTHER THAN GRANTS-IN-AID

The bulk of the resources available to the Council will necessarily be utilised in providing grants-in-aid, especially for research in social sciences. The Council does not, however, look upon its capacity to disburse large sums of grants-in-aid as its principal activity and is of the view that its usefulness would even be curbed if it were to be regarded as primarily a source of financial aid. To achieve its basic objectives, therefore, the Council will promote, side by side, the major programmes, other than grants-in-aid, indicated above, viz., research surveys and identification of priorities, discovery and development of research talent (including provision of fellowships and training in research

methodology), and building up the essential infrastructure for social science research (including bibliographical and documentation services). These will not cost much but will need a good deal of effort in planning and organisation. An adequate portion of the overall resources available to the Council (say 15-20%) may be earmarked for these programmes to ensure that they are properly nurtured.

Organisation : Administrative and Financial

The organisation of the Council—administrative and financial—will have to be planned to suit its role, special responsibilities, functions and programmes.

AUTONOMY

The maintenance of autonomy is of profound significance to the success of the Council. This involves not only freedom from undue political or bureaucratic pressures, but also detachment from insistencies that may arise within the academic community itself. In the last analysis, the autonomy of the Council will depend mainly upon the quality and character of its membership and staff and upon the relationships it will develop with the academic community at large.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Council has five statutory committees, which have executive and delegated authority, viz., Administrative Committee, Research Projects Committee, Committee on Documentation Services and Research Information, Committee on Training and the Foreign Aid Committee. In addition, it has decided to set up standing committees for different disciplines. Each such standing committee will have not less than 10 and not more than 16 members, who may represent important specialisations within the discipline and social scientists of different status and age-groups. As far as possible, a regional representation would also be sought to be given. Besides, the Council may appoint advisory committees, working groups, etc., to deal with special programmes.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE COUNCIL

The Council will maintain a professional staff of about a dozen persons who, between them, would represent the major disciplines included within social and behavioural sciences. This staff will function as a team under the chairmanship of the Secretary and will look after all professional work of the Council. The recruitment and training of this staff is of great importance and so is the need to provide them with challenging opportunities to keep abreast of the latest developments in their fields and to promote research in social sciences on the broad policies enunciated by the Council from time to time.

GRANTS-IN-AID

An important principle laid down by the Council is that it will not accept any permanent recurring liabilities. Its grants-in-aid are, therefore, being sanctioned for specified periods which do not ordinarily go beyond five years. This will make it possible for the Council to utilise its funds continuously for new ideas and ventures and to function, as it were, at the frontiers of social science research.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Council is administratively under the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare. But its scope and programmes make it imperative for it to deal with a number of other Ministries and Central agencies.

The Council will also have to develop relations with State Governments who have begun to take greater interest in social science research and especially in relation to the regional social science documentation centres. Above all, the Council will have to develop close working relations with the University Grants Commission in order that teaching and research in social sciences are developed under a coordinated policy which will strengthen both.

PERIODICAL REVIEWS

It is essential that the Council should evaluate its own programmes and policies from time to time. In 1969, the Council began by accepting the report of the Social Science Research Committee and the suggestions made by Prof. V.K.R.V. Rao, the then Education Minister who inaugurated it. This review has been held at the end of a two-year period and the policies indicated above have been suggested in the light of experience gained. It may be desirable to hold the next review at the end of the Fourth Five-Year Plan period in 1974; and thereafter, such reviews may be repeated every five years and oftener, if necessary.

ANNEXURE

THE ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES, FUNCTIONS, PROGRAMMES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ICSSR —A SPECIAL REPORT

by

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THE ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES, FUNCTIONS, PROGRAMMES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ICSSR

I INTRODUCTION

1. I was directed by the Indian Council of Social Science Research to take into consideration the Report of Dr. Pendleton-Herring as well as that of Mr. Andrew Shonfield and Prof. A.B. Cherns, the recommendations of the seventeen seminars organised by the Council on the role, functions, programmes and organisation of the ICSSR, and the discussion which has taken place in the Council from time to time on all the issues raised in these documents and to submit a comprehensive and detailed report for its consideration. I am accordingly submitting this Report.

2. I would like to acknowledge gratefully the valuable assistance I have received in the preparation of this Report from all my colleagues in the Council. In fact, this can be described not as a personal report but more appropriately as a collaborative endeavour of the entire staff of the Council.

II WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL SCIENCES?

3. One of the most frequently discussed issues is the scope of social sciences. Three types of questions have been raised in this context. The first is to include a new discipline within the scope of social sciences, e.g., it has been claimed that history, law or linguistics should be treated as social sciences. The second is to claim that a certain discipline should be included *separately* within the list of social sciences approved by the Council, e.g., it is urged that international relations which is now included under political science, should be regarded as a separate discipline. The third is to suggest that a discipline,

which is now included only partially within social sciences, should be included in its entirety, e.g., it is claimed that the whole of anthropology should be regarded as social science instead of cultural and social anthropology only. The three issues obviously need to be discussed separately.

4. The Council has taken a pragmatic view on this issue. It is of the opinion that the scope of social sciences would cover some disciplines entirely and others only partially. But what is more important is to decide how each of its programmes covers these disciplines. There is, for instance, no need to assume that every programme must cover *all* social sciences in the *same* way and in fact, it would be an advantage to decide, separately for each programme, how it would cover the different disciplines included in the scope of social sciences, either fully or partially. Accordingly, separate lists of social sciences were prepared for (1) research grants, (2) the national register of social scientists, and (3) the union catalogue of social science serials.

List of Social Sciences Approved for Research Grants

5. The Social Science Research Committee defined social sciences to include the following :

- (i) Economics and Commerce, including Economic History, Economic and Demographic Statistics and Industrial and Labour Management;
- (ii) Political Science and Public Administration including Personnel Management;
- (iii) Sociology and Social Work including Social Demography and Social History; and
- (iv) Social Anthropology and Social Psychology including Criminology and Ethnography.

The Council has broadened this definition to some extent and stated that grants-in-aid under the ICSSR Research Grants

Scheme, 1971, would be available for research in the following areas:

- (i) Economics (including Demography)
- (ii) Commerce, Business Administration and Management
- (iii) Political Science (including International Relations)
- (iv) Public Administration
- (v) Sociology and Social Work, including Criminology
- (vi) Social and Cultural Anthropology, including Ethnography
- (vii) Psychology and
- (viii) Human, Political and Economic Geography

N.B. *History and Statistics relating to a discipline may be deemed to be included within the discipline itself.*

The Scheme also states that education, although an important social science, has not been included within the scope of the scheme because grants-in-aid for educational research are normally provided by the University Grants Commission or the National Council of Educational Research and Training. The Council has, however, expressed its willingness to assist research projects based on an inter-disciplinary approach to education.

The grants from the Council, the Scheme provided, would also be available for research in subjects which cannot be classified in the way indicated above and even in subjects falling outside the above list provided their social science content is high. This, in fact, is a very elastic provision which will meet every legitimate demand in practice.

6. It may be noted that the Council has made the following changes in the recommendations of the Social Science Research Committee on this subject:

- (i) Economic, Human and Political Geography was newly included;
- (ii) The scope of Psychology was widened;

- (iii) Education was also included as a social science, although grants-in-aid for it were restricted to a few specific areas; and
- (iv) Above all, it was laid down that any research project "whose social content was high" could be assisted by the Council, irrespective of the fact as to whether it relates to a discipline (s) which falls within or without the scope of social sciences as formally defined from time to time.

7. It has been claimed that even this enlarged scope of social sciences is still restrictive and that it should be expanded further. The main disciplines on behalf of which a demand has been put forward for inclusion are: Agricultural Extension, Archaeology, History, Law and Linguistics.

8. The question relating to Agricultural Extension is mainly academic. Even if it is accepted as a discipline and admitted within the scope of social sciences, it is hardly necessary to provide grants-in-aid for research in this area which is well served by the resources provided by the Ministry of Agriculture. Both History and Linguistics have a case for inclusion within the scope of social sciences and also for making specific categories of research therein eligible for grants-in-aid. It is, therefore, suggested that research programmes in both the disciplines which highlight social aspects should be eligible to receive financial support from the Council. The claim of Archaeology for being regarded as a social science is comparatively weaker. Any archaeological study which has a high social science content can be assisted under the scheme even now and no change in the rules seems, therefore, to be called for in this context. The same policy should apply to Law also. The field of Law is so wide that it will not be desirable to include the whole of it within the social sciences. Social aspects of Law will, of course, continue to receive the attention of the Council and research projects in this field will also be supported under the general clause referred to earlier. In fact, the

Council has already set up a Working Group to promote research in "Law and Social Change".

The List of Social Sciences approved for the National Register of Social Scientists

9. For purposes of the National Register of Social Scientists, the main decision has been that a discipline will have to be included *as a whole* and not in part, because every social scientist, in spite of his specialization in some sub-fields, has a broad familiarity with the discipline as a whole. It would, for instance, be neither practicable nor desirable to compile a National Register of Social Scientists for "Economic, Human and Political Geography" and not for Geography as a whole. The same would apply to Anthropology. For the purposes of the National Register of Social Scientists, therefore, the Council has decided to include the *whole* of the following disciplines within its scope :

- (i) Anthropology
- (ii) Commerce
- (iii) Demography
- (iv) Economics
- (v) Geography
- (vi) History
- (vii) International Relations
- (viii) Linguistics
- (ix) Management Studies
- (x) Political Science
- (xi) Psychology
- (xii) Public Administration
- (xiii) Social Work and
- (xiv) Sociology.

It is true that the Council regards Education as a social science. But 'Education' was excluded from this project

because the compilation of the National Register in this field would have meant the enumeration of a large number of school teachers. Apart from the cost involved, this would not have served any useful purpose. Similarly, a part of Law obviously falls within the scope of social sciences. It was, therefore, expected, as in the case of Geography, History or Anthropology, that the whole of Law would be included within the scope of this Project. But this was not done because the National Register would then have included most of the practising lawyers in the country—an exercise which did not have any significance for the programmes of the Council.

The List of Social Sciences Approved for the Union Catalogue of Social Science Serials

10. In this project, the decision was comparatively easier and 'Education' and 'Law' were both included within the scope of the project in addition to the disciplines listed under Paragraph 9 above.

11. The second set of demands put forward in this context refers to the declaration of certain fields as 'independent' disciplines. For instance, the Council was requested to include within its scope "International Relations" as an independent discipline. The Council, however, was of the opinion that it cannot decide issues of this type which should be decided by the academic community itself or by the University Grants Commission. What is relevant and operationally important from the Council's point of view is whether a particular area is or is not included within its scope so that it becomes eligible or ineligible to receive aid. Whether it receives assistance from the Council as an 'independent' discipline, or as a part of another discipline, is not a matter of any practical significance.

12. The third set of demands refers to the inclusion of a discipline in its entirety within the scope of social sciences. It has been suggested, as stated earlier, that the whole of Anthropology should be regarded as a social science and not only Cultural and Social Anthropology as at present. Such claims have

already been accepted with regard to the National Register of Social Scientists and the Union Catalogue of Social Science Serials. In so far as research grants are concerned, these claims are obviously weak and need not be granted. All research projects with a 'high' social science content within Geography and Anthropology can always be supported under the general clause referred to earlier.

13. It is obvious that the Council has moved a good deal ahead from the position taken by the Social Science Research Committee. Some issues are, however, still outstanding and these have been indicated in Paragraphs 7 to 12.

III

ROLES, SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

14. The major objectives of the Indian Council of Social Science Research are two: to promote research in social sciences and to strive for better utilization of the results of such research. The roles, special responsibilities and functions of the Council flow from these basic objectives.

The Responsive Role

15. Research in social sciences is a highly creative endeavour and the freedom of the initiative of the individual social scientist (or a group of social scientists belonging to an institution or institutions and to one or more disciplines) is a critical factor in its promotion. Adequate steps will, therefore, have to be taken to safeguard and promote this initiative and, to that end, the Council is expected to respond, with understanding and sympathy, to all initiatives of individual social scientists. The Council will also have to respond to other needs of the social scientists by building up the necessary infrastructure for research and by making the necessary information and services available to all who seek them. This is its most important role.

The Promotional Role

16. But a responsive role, however important and necessary, is not enough. It can only assist decisions about research taken by individual scientists at micro-levels. These will not necessarily add up to a relevant research policy which can make an impact on the development of social sciences or promote their use for a better understanding and solution of national problems of significance and relevance. If a purposive use of social science research is to be made for assisting programmes of social development, the responsive role of the Council will have to be supplemented by a promotional role under which the Council will try to take initiative in directing social science research in specific areas or towards specific objectives. Obviously, such promotional role assumes special significance in a developing country like ours.

17. This promotional role of the Council will have to be developed with several purposes in view. Among these, the following may be mentioned :

- (i) To conduct surveys of research in different fields of social sciences from time to time with a view to identifying major research gaps;
- (ii) To identify major problems of relevance and significance in which social science research will have to be directed in a big way;
- (iii) To stimulate discussion on priorities in research so that the initiative of the social scientists operates more meaningfully in the context of the problems facing the country;
- (iv) To identify talent and to provide it with opportunities for optimum growth;
- (v) To broad-base research activity by providing support to promising social scientists in out-of-the-way places and by striving to create new centres of research activity in all parts of the country;

(vi) To promote excellence in selected research centres by providing large financial support; and

(vii) Whenever necessary, by taking initiative even to formulate research proposals and to farm them out between different research centres.

While the promotional role of the Council is distinct and important, it is also essential to note that the responsive role itself can be so played as to stimulate the development of research on certain desirable lines.

18. Divergent views have been expressed on this promotional role. Some would rule it out altogether because it implies a threat to the initiative, independence and autonomy of the social scientists. Others recognise its need, but would prefer to see it played in a low key so that it does not dominate the situation and adversely affect the freedom and autonomy of the social scientists. Some social scientists have, however, emphasized the importance of this role in developing countries and would like the Council to go about it in a big way. The problem is essentially one of the relative importance of the promotional and responsive roles; and the Council would have to evolve a policy of a judicious balance between the two.

19. It is extremely important that the Council should maintain a non-competitive role. This will enable it to inspire confidence in universities and research institutions and to secure their full cooperation. A number of important principles will have to be laid down and scrupulously adhered to in this context. To begin with, the Council should not undertake any research programme under its direct auspices. It should also not strive to establish any research institutions or centres of its own. Fortunately, it cannot do so under its present constitution. Similarly, the Council should not undertake any activity which a university or a research institution seems better able to perform, nor should it continue to operate a responsibility which it accepted at one time but which, owing to changed

circumstances, can be advantageously transferred to some university or institution. Its direct activities should be limited to a few programmes in which the rationale of such direct action is justified on rigorous criteria of economy and efficiency; and it should always prefer to play the role of a promotional, advisory or coordinating agency.

The Coordinating and Supplementing Role

20. This non-competitive role of the Council necessarily leads to another, namely, its coordinating and supplementary role. In the larger interests of social science research, it is necessary that the financial support for it should come from multiple sources rather than from a single source. It is also necessary to lay down a convention that the different sources for financing social sciences should function independently and in their own autonomous manner and that it should be open to any social scientist whose proposal has been turned down from one source to approach the other sources. To make this freedom meaningful, there will have to be a tacit understanding between different sources of support that a research proposal turned down by one source will not be rejected by another on that ground alone.

21. There seems to be a misunderstanding in certain quarters that the Council is, or is wanting to be, the sole agency of financial support for social science research. Nothing can be farther from the truth. As things now stand, multiple financial support is available for social science research. The University Grants Commission can and does give grants-in-aid for research projects. Business and industry also support research in social sciences to some extent, especially when such research is related to their own needs. There are several ministries and agencies of the Government of India which provide financial support to research in areas of their interest. For instance, demographic research and research in family planning (a bulk of it is within the field of social sciences) is promoted by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Home Affairs gives

grants-in-aid for certain categories of research and some other ministries also have similar programmes. The State Governments also assist research in social sciences and often maintain or aid special research institutions. The Council would like this multiplicity of sources for financial support to continue and does not want to take over any responsibilities from any of these funding sources. On the other hand, it would like them to be expanded to the extent possible. Its only desire is to utilise its own resources in such a manner that they would supplement those provided by the other agencies. This alone will help social science research to get the maximum support possible and enable all types of research workers to have a reasonable chance of being heard.

22. Of course, one of these multiple sources of financial support for social science research is that of foreign funds. Every social scientist or institution desiring to have assistance from foreign sources has to obtain permission of the Government of India. In a sensitive area like social sciences, foreign aid obviously creates some problems and it is necessary for Government to lay down certain principles and policies for acceptance of such aid. The Council has the responsibility to advise the Government of India in this regard.

23. Some misunderstandings on this subject have recently arisen. But it must be clarified that there is no desire to supplant this source of financial assistance and that the only objective of the Council's policy is to regulate it in the national interest. It may also be pointed out that it would be a mistake to over-emphasize this source. It is true that, at one time, it was probably the most important, if not the only, source of support for social science research in the country. This was a very unhappy situation. Fortunately, Government has taken a right step in eliminating this almost exclusive dependence of social science research on external support. Moreover, national support for social science research has increased considerably in volume in recent years and will increase still further in future

so that, in sheer volume, the external financial support can only play a marginal role.

24. The Council would like to keep in touch with all the different agencies, official and non-official, which provide financial support for social science research and thus perform a clearing-house function. This will enable it to plan its own programmes in an optimum manner. It respects the autonomy and independence of the other sources of financial support and has no intention to try to influence or modify their policies in any way. Some misunderstandings arise in this case also because, according to the Government Resolution establishing the Council, one of its functions is "to coordinate research activities in the field of social sciences." As stated above, however, the Council does not propose to undertake anything beyond a clearing-house function in this regard.

The Advisory Role

25. Under its constitution, the Council is required to advise the Government of India "on all such matters pertaining to social science research as may be referred to it by the Government of India from time to time, including collaborative arrangements in social science research with foreign agencies." Under this clause, the matters that are at present referred to it fall into two broad categories: (a) proposals for acceptance of foreign aid in the field of social science research; and (b) the grant of permission to overseas scholars to come and do research in India. The Council has also been declared to be the certifying authority, under Section 35 of the Income Tax Act, in respect of exemption of donations in support of social science research. In course of time, the advisory role of the Council is likely to expand and the services which the Council will develop may be increasingly made use of by the Central and State Governments and other agencies which provide financial support for social science research. The extent to which this role will grow would naturally depend upon the expertise

which the Council will have and the relations which it will build up with other agencies which support social science research.

Special Responsibilities

26. By virtue of its position as the largest single agency functioning at the national level for promotion of social science research, the Council has to assume the following important responsibilities:

(a) *Inter-disciplinary Research* : The importance of inter-disciplinary research is obvious, especially in dealing with major problems of significance and relevance. The Council will, therefore, have to take special steps to promote inter-disciplinary research which is yet in its infancy in this country.

(b) *Inter-institutional Collaboration* : Research programmes which involve collaboration between a group of independent institutions are rare at present. But as available research skills are limited, it is necessary to promote inter-institutional collaboration in which each of the collaborating institutions can make its own significant contribution. The Council should encourage research programmes of this type when the initiative is taken by the institutions themselves. Alternatively, it should also promote national studies (or studies covering more than one region of the country) in which a number of institutions will be required to collaborate on a major research programme.

(c) *Inter-regional Collaboration* : It is also the special responsibility of the Council to promote inter-regional collaboration so that the strengths of one region are made available to others. This will also promote national integration. This collaboration will assume increasing importance in the years ahead as the regional languages begin to be employed in higher education on a larger scale. The Council will then be called upon to facilitate communication between the different linguistic regions. It is not too early to begin establishing the institutional and

other frame-work which will be necessary for performing this clearing-house function in the foreseeable future.

(d) *User-Producer Linkage*: With a view to increasing the utilization of social science research, it is necessary to bring together producers and users of research in universities, research institutions, government and business and industry, not only to consider the utilization of research already carried out, but also to plan and implement research programmes on the basis of users' needs and requirements. The Council is in a particularly good position to undertake this responsibility as it can provide a platform on which the universities, research institutions, government departments and private industry can easily come together.

(e) *International Collaboration*: The Council will also have to assume certain responsibilities for promoting international collaboration. In the years ahead, it is necessary to build closer contacts between Indian social scientists and those in other developing and developed countries. It is specially important to build such collaboration with social scientists in the countries of Asia and Africa. The Council will, therefore, have to develop programmes in this field under which Indian social scientists may be enabled to work in other countries and scholars from other countries may be invited to come and do research in India. Programmes for exchange of materials and data will also have to be evolved.

Functions

27. The functions of the Council have to be defined, as broadly and flexibly as possible, to cover its different roles and special responsibilities, as identified from time to time, and also to enable it to undertake all the varied programmes needed to secure its basic objectives. From this point of view, the functions of the Council, as defined by Government in its Memorandum of Association, appear to be sufficiently wide and elastic. These

have been reproduced below for convenience of reference :

- (i) To review the progress of social science research and to give advice to its users in Government or outside;
- (ii) To sponsor social science research programmes as well as research projects, and administer grants to institutions and individuals for research in social sciences and to give financial support to learned associations, standard journals and institutions or organizations engaged in the conduct or sponsoring of social science research;
- (iii) To provide technical assistance for the formulation of social science research programmes and designing of research projects by individuals or institutions, and to organise and support institutional arrangement for training in research methodology;
- (iv) To indicate periodically areas and topics on which social science research is to be promoted and to adopt special measures for the development of research in neglected or new areas;
- (v) To coordinate research activities in the field of social sciences and to encourage programmes of inter-disciplinary research;
- (vi) To develop and support centres for documentation service, maintenance and supply of data, inventory of current social science research and preparation of national register of social scientists;
- (vii) To organise, sponsor and finance seminars, workshops, study circles, working groups/parties, and conferences for promoting research or utilization of social science research;
- (viii) To give grants for publication of social science research work and to undertake publication of digests, periodicals and journals devoted to such research;

- (ix) To institute and administer scholarships, fellowships and awards for social science research by students, teachers and other research workers in India or outside, and in particular, to award senior fellowships for research in social sciences that will enable workers in universities to complete their research work for publication or undertake whole-time research for a defined period on topics in which they are specially interested and for doing research on which they are specially qualified;
- (x) To advise the Government of India on all such matters pertaining to social science research as may be referred to it by the Government of India from time to time, including collaborative arrangements in social science research with foreign agencies; and
- (xi) Generally, to take all such measures as may be found necessary from time to time to promote social science research and its utilization in the country.

28. It may be of interest to note that three functions suggested by the Social Science Research Committee have been omitted in the Memorandum of Association of the Council. These are : (a) to give both development and maintenance grants to research institutions in social sciences that do not constitute either affiliated or constituent institutions of statutory universities in India; (b) to institute and administer a pool of social scientists; and (c) to conduct inter-disciplinary research where necessary. Regarding the first, Government took the view that a scheme for this purpose should be formulated and administered by the Ministry of Education and Youth Services rather than by the Council which should, however, be closely associated with its administration. On the second, Government felt that social scientists can, even at present, be registered under the pool of social scientists maintained by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. In the opinion of Government, therefore, it was not necessary to constitute another

pool of social scientists under the Indian Council of Social Science Research. With regard to the third, Government was of the view that the Council should play a non-competitive role and that, while it should exert itself to the maximum extent possible for promoting research in universities and other institutions, it should not directly undertake any research project, even of an inter-disciplinary character.

29. Even in view of the expanded functions visualised in this paper, no amendment of these functions seems to be called for.

The Programmes of the Council

30. The programmes of the Council arise from the functions listed above. A fairly comprehensive list of the different programmes which the Council should promote has emerged in the course of discussions. Some of these have been launched already while others have yet to be initiated. For convenience of discussion, these may be classified in five convenient categories :

- (i) The Research Survey Scheme 1970 and Identification of Priority Areas;
- (ii) Financial Support to Research Projects and Programmes;
- (iii) Identification and Development of Research Talent;
- (iv) Clearing-House Services (including publications); and
- (v) Promoting Better Utilization of Social Science Research.

IV

THE RESEARCH SURVEY SCHEME 1970 AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY AREAS

These will be discussed seriatim in this and the following four sections.

The Research Survey Scheme, 1970

31. Since the provision of financial support for research projects or programmes in the field of social sciences was its principal objective, one of the earliest issues debated upon in the Council was the formulation of a Research Promotion Policy. On what basis will the Council sanction grants-in-aid for research? To say that the research project should be of high quality and the Project Director competent, was only to state the obvious. While these criteria would help in distinguishing good projects from those that were not so good, they would be only of limited use in deciding between sets of good projects. Nor would these criteria, by themselves, ensure that the total research programme of the Council would form a cohesive picture built round some specific objectives and that it would make a significant contribution to the development of theory, refinement of methodology or better understanding and solution of important national problems. It was, therefore, suggested that the Council should define a Research Promotion Policy which would secure these broader objectives and would also be known to and accepted by the academic community. It was further suggested that the Council should identify priority areas in research and direct its financial support to them in a comparatively massive form. It was with a view to assisting in these tasks that the Research Survey Scheme, 1970, was formulated.

32. Under the scheme, the entire area of social sciences was divided into seven major fields : (i) Economics, Commerce and Demography; (ii) Political Science and Government; (iii) Public Administration; (iv) Management; (v) Sociology, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Criminology and Social Work; (vi) Psychology; and (vii) Economic, Human and Political Geography. Each major field was divided into a number of sub-fields and selected social scientists were requested to survey the research done in each sub-field so far and to indicate the principal gaps as well as the major programmes of research which should attract financial support from the Council. To carry

out the task entrusted to him, each social scientist was provided with financial assistance on a prescribed scale. It was originally estimated that the entire programme would be finished in two years, the first year being taken up with the survey proper and the second, with its editing and publication. But this proved to be an under-estimate; and although the bulk of the work has been finished, it appears that the entire programme would take about three years for its completion. The original estimate of costs, Rs. 7 lakhs, however, remains unchanged.

33. A detailed descriptive note on the scheme has been included in its appropriate context in the Annual Report of the Council and need not be repeated here. What we are concerned with, however, is its evaluation, an assessment of its strength and weaknesses so that its results can be put to the best use possible and the programmes for its continuance could be properly formulated and implemented.

34. The research survey has brought in many advantages. They have, for the first time since Independence, given us a fairly comprehensive account of the research work done in the different fields of social sciences and made us familiar with the research institutions, the researchers, the extent to which the different fields of research in social science have been explored so far and the preferred as well as neglected areas. They have brought a mass of data on the basis of which an objective research promotional policy can be formulated, a task which would otherwise have been left to the 'hunches' of members of the Council. There is also no doubt they would give a more meaningful direction to future social science research in the country through the information and stimulation that they will provide to teachers and researchers themselves. Incidentally, they have helped the Council to involve a large number of social scientists in its programmes and thus establish a working rapport with them. This, in itself, is no small gain.

35. The weaknesses in the implementation of the programme, as they have now come to light, must also be

mentioned. The selection of social scientists did not always prove to be the best. There has also been, as was anticipated to some extent, a wide variation in the quality of reports. It was also not possible to establish a common approach on the part of all the social scientists working on the programme. But even when allowance is made for all these factors, it may be stated that about half of the total volume of work is of good quality. Another about 30 per cent is still acceptable. This, it is felt, is a fair achievement especially in view of the fact that so large a programme was being attempted for the first time in the country. Steps are now being taken to improve the weaker reports. Similarly, the research surveys in sub-fields which could not be completed by social scientists entrusted with the task earlier are being completed through other social scientists who have been kind enough to accept the responsibility. When these measures are completed, the entire research survey programme would become an outstanding landmark in the development of social science research in India.

36. The main task before the Council now is to finalise the research survey reports and to publish them. It has been decided that this should be done in two stages. In the first stage, the research survey reports in each major field would be published in extenso in one volume. In some disciplines, such as Economics, where the total quantum of research has been very extensive, the volume may be divided into more than one part. This stage of the publication would, therefore, consist of seven volumes (one for each major field) which, taken together, may be divided into 12 to 15 parts. In the second stage, a single report would be prepared suggesting the research promotion policy for each discipline within social sciences. This would naturally be based upon the detailed research survey reports, but would differ from them in two aspects: (a) it would take an overall comprehensive view for the discipline as a whole and not separately for each sub-field; and (b) it would represent the broad policy of the Council rather than the views of the individual social scientists who have

carried out the research surveys in the different sub-fields. It is proposed to bring out a single volume containing all these reports of research promotion policies for the different disciplines. It is estimated that all this task would be completed in the next eighteen months.

37. *The Continuity of the Research Survey*: Two main issues were raised in the seminars on the Research Survey Reports. The first referred to the problem of continuity. The current series of research survey reports, it was said, may be assumed to be good bench-mark reports for the year 1970. It was, however, argued that this programme of research surveys must be kept up as an aid to improve the quality of research and to avoid duplication, overlap and waste. Several suggestions were put forward from this point of view. The first was that a comprehensive survey of this type should be repeated periodically, say, every five to ten years. A more popular variation of the demand was to suggest an annual trend report covering some or all aspects of a discipline. The second related to the evolution of a programme of efficient bibliographical and documentation services in all social sciences. If such programmes were drawn up for each social science discipline and continuously maintained, it was argued, the bibliographical and documentation aspects of the surveys of research carried out in 1970 would be maintained up-to-date and would be of great help to all research workers. The programme was especially emphasized on the ground that the international bibliographical and documentation services did not cover the research done in India adequately and that it was necessary for us to develop our own programme of such services. It was also pointed out that while the bibliographical and documentation services may initially cover only researches reported in English, they will be required, as time passes, to cover the research reported in regional languages to an increasing extent. It was, therefore, suggested that the programme should be so evolved as to cover all research in social sciences carried out in

India and reported not only in English, but also in the different Indian languages.

38. The suggestions regarding bibliographical and documentation services are discussed in a later section. The idea that a massive survey of the type carried out in 1970 should be repeated every five to ten years is not also a good suggestion, partly because of the cost involved and partly because the utility of such surveys would be comparatively less. But the more popular suggestion put forward in the seminars that there should be annual surveys of trends to cover some or all aspects of a discipline needs serious attention. The Standing Committees on different disciplines which the Council proposes to establish may be advantageously utilized for this purpose and they should be requested to prepare, in their own areas, annual surveys of research trends which will supplement the findings of the Research Survey Scheme, 1970. Every year, these Standing Committees may identify individual social scientists who could be entrusted with the task sufficiently in advance so that these annual surveys would be available and published in time. The advantages of the programme are obvious. It will also not cost much; but its organization needs careful planning and vigorous implementation.

39. Yet another useful suggestion put forward was that this programme of research surveys in different sub-fields should be regarded as a continuous programme of the Council and that proposals for research surveys in depth, submitted by any social scientist who is interested in them, should be regarded as a research project and financially supported. Obviously, assignments of this type would serve a very useful purpose in sub-fields for which no surveys were carried out in the Research Survey Scheme of 1970 or in those sub-fields in which, for some reason or the other, the survey carried out failed to come up to the required standards. They would also be useful where all research built round a single theme (as distinguished from a sub-field of a discipline) is proposed to be surveyed.

40. *Supplementary Surveys or Studies:* The Research Survey Scheme, 1970, reports all research carried out according to the different disciplines and their sub-fields. Even the programmes suggested above for maintaining its continuity will be discipline-oriented. An important suggestion which came up in the seminars, therefore, was that the Council should develop three supplementary programmes of research surveys and studies which will help it to formulate its research promotion policy and to identify priorities. The first of these should concern itself with policy-oriented research, especially with reference to major national issues, such as social equality or poverty. The second should concern itself with user-oriented research and should be developed through programmes where important users of social science research and its producers are brought together; and the third should deal with programmes where inter-disciplinary research would have a significant contribution to make. Such studies would form a good supplement to the valuable but discipline-oriented reports produced under the Research Survey Scheme, 1970.

41. *Utilization of Research for Purposes of Teaching:* The second main issue raised in the seminars referred to the use of research in teaching. The general view was that teaching in the classroom, whether at the undergraduate or postgraduate stage, is largely divorced from the findings of research in the Indian situation. In the past, this was mainly due to lack of information—a weakness which will be largely remedied by the publication of the reports under the Research Survey Scheme, 1970. It would, however, be wrong to assume that this research would automatically find its way into classroom teaching; and the seminars, therefore, suggested that the Council should develop two major programmes from this point of view. The first would be to prepare a series of readings for different disciplines or sub-fields which would be used for teaching purposes at the undergraduate, and especially at the postgraduate stage; and the second would be to produce a series of good textbooks, especially for the undergra-

duate stage, which would incorporate the major findings of all the relevant research carried out in the Indian situation. Both these are very important suggestions and deserve to be pursued. In so far as the programme of producing readings is concerned, it is suggested that the Council should take it up immediately and organize it on a fairly large scale. In so far as production of textbooks is concerned, the Council may leave the field entirely to the University Grants Commission or collaborate with it on an agreed basis.

Identification of Priority Areas

42. The discussion relating to the identification of priority areas for research support proved to be extremely controversial. Some social scientists took the line that it was not their province to determine priorities in research and that the Council may, if it so considers absolutely essential, formulate its own criteria for the determination of priority. Another group opposed the proposal altogether. These social scientists were of the view that any attempt to determine priorities in research would have several disadvantages. For instance, social scientists working in what may be designated as 'non-priority areas' would be at a handicap because, in spite of their own competence or the excellence of their projects, they would not be getting as much financial support as they deserved or needed. There was also the complementary danger that many second and third rate research projects would be put forward and sanctioned in the so-called 'priority areas' for the simple reason that funds would be more plentifully available. They also argued that it would not be easy to lay down and administer objective criteria for the determination of priorities between different research projects and that any such exercise was more likely to be abused than used for promotion of social science research. They also feared that, in any scheme of priority, applied research would receive greater emphasis and allocation of resources with the result that the more fundamental problems of theoretical research would tend to be neglected. There was, however, a large group of social scientists who accepted the need to identify priorities

in research, not only because the funds available were limited, but also because the available funds had to be used to their maximum potential. To meet the objections of those who were against all effort to determine priorities, however, they suggested a number of useful precautions. For instance, they suggested that a discussion on priorities in research should be utilised, not so much to guide the financial policies of the Council, as to stimulate the social scientists themselves to develop their programmes with greater diligence in certain desirable channels. They also felt that grants-in-aid should not be refused to non-priority areas, although the bulk of the funds of the Council may be channelised to support research in priority areas. In particular, they argued that it was necessary to emphasize both theoretical and applied research and that while priorities may be assigned between different projects within theoretical or applied research, the Council should promote both these fields of research equally and intensively.

43. It has not yet been possible for the Council to identify priority areas in research. Through the appointment of Standing Committees or Working Groups, however, the Council has indirectly identified some priority areas in the last two years. These include : (1) Research into the Problems of Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; (2) Educational Finance; (3) Educational and Social Development; (4) Law and Social Changes; and (5) Problems of Social Equality. On the basis of projects sanctioned or proposed, two priority areas stand out : Election Studies and Entrepreneurship. As stated earlier, however, the Council will be able to identify and indicate its priority areas in different fields as soon as it has been able to finalise its research survey reports for all the seven major fields. This, it is hoped, will be possible before the end of December, 1971.

44. So far, the number of projects submitted to the Council was so small that it was possible to support or reject

research proposals on considerations of quality only. But now the number of projects being submitted to the Council is increasing very fast—about 50 to 60 new projects are received every month. It will, therefore, be necessary, not only to indicate the priority areas, but also to apply the priority criteria increasingly while sanctioning grants-in-aid for research proposals.

V

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO RESEARCH PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

45. The grant of financial assistance to research projects or programmes is obviously the most important responsibility of the Council. The bulk of its funds would also be utilised for this purpose. The issues relevant for discussion in this context are three : (1) How to increase the quantum of research; (2) How to improve the quality of research; and (3) What are the different programmes that should be developed to promote research in social sciences, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Creation of an Atmosphere Favourable for Research

46. One point made out in most seminars was that the present atmosphere in Indian universities was not conducive to research. Among the factors which were cited as disincentives for research, mention may be made of over-heavy teaching loads, inadequacy of staff, lack of adequate free-time for research, lack of funds, absence of essential services and support, and even lack of recognition. This complaint was voiced more strongly by the staff of the affiliated colleges. There was a general demand that the University Grants Commission and the Council, jointly and separately, should strive their utmost to overcome the ill-effects of these disincentives and to create an atmosphere favourable for research. The Council itself, it was said, has an important role to play in this, not only through financial support but also through the development of a series of ancillary programmes. To discharge this responsibility effectively, it was suggested that the Council should have adequate professional staff of some

standing with the universities and with the academic community and the Chairman and members of the Council should strive, individually and collectively, to build up closer contacts with the universities with a view to promoting research in them.

Broad-basing of Social Science Research

47. Another important point that came up for discussion in the Seminars was the need to broad-base social science research in the country. It was pointed out that at present social science research has developed only in a few centres, far too few for the size of the country or the complexity of its problems. The social scientists in the outlying States were especially bitter about their neglect. Some of them claimed that all-India organisations like the Council usually spend the bulk of their funds in Delhi or its neighbourhood and that the neglect of the different parts of the country by the Centre was directly proportional to their distance from Delhi. There was also a charge that, in all such organisations, the bulk of funds tends to be spent on a few institutions in which their members or their friends are particularly interested and that institutions or individuals with no 'pull' or 'contact' were generally ignored. To avoid these mistakes, it was suggested that the Council should strive to broad-base its programme of social science research, to spread its grants far and wide especially to the outlying and distant universities and affiliated colleges, and to build up a number of research centres distributed fairly equitably in all the States and Union Territories. The number of such centres, where more intensive research would be developed, was put anywhere between 50 to 200. It was also suggested that the Council should make special efforts to ascertain the difficulties and handicaps from which social scientists in outlying universities or in affiliated colleges suffer and to devise ways and means to overcome them so that a reasonable part of its funds would reach these underprivileged, handicapped and neglected groups. This would help towards broad-basing social science research.

48. Very naturally, the relationship of such a programme of broad-basing social science research with the alternative policy

of concentrating in a few centres to produce excellence was discussed in almost all gatherings. The general view was that this is not a question of 'either-or' and that, for the proper development of social science research, both these programmes have to be simultaneously pursued. The only impediment for such a policy would be paucity of funds and it was, therefore, suggested that Government should provide the Council with liberal allocations for the next few years in order to enable it to promote a policy of concentration and dispersal simultaneously so that the quality of social science research will improve even while its base is being broadened to embrace all parts of the country.

49. One more point was highlighted. At least in the early stages, it was said, the Council should try to provide special guidance to researchers in outlying universities or mofussil colleges so that they would be trained, through the research programmes themselves, to undertake better and more intensive programmes of research in the future. For this purpose, the Council should develop a programme of consultancy service, under which a teacher in an outlying university or in a mofussil college, who wants to undertake a research project, will have the necessary guidance made available to him, both in formulating and executing his project. It is true a little additional expenditure would be involved in this programme, partly to cover the remuneration of the consultant and partly the travel costs of the Project Directors who seek these consultancy services. But the scale of such expenditure would be marginal, while this small investment would yield rich dividends in a short time. The need to develop this programme also highlights the urgency to create an adequate professional staff in the Council.

50. While great emphasis was laid in almost all seminars on an increase in the quantum of social science research and its dispersal over all parts of the country, a plea was also put forward that this expansion should not lead to a dilution of its quality and that, on the other hand, efforts should simultaneously be made to improve the quality of research as well. Several

programmes such as the training of research workers, the provision of research facilities and institution of guidance service were suggested from this point of view and these will be discussed subsequently in their appropriate context. But what the Seminars highlighted was the point that a mere limitation on the quantum of research will not necessarily improve its quality; nor will an expansion in the quantum of research necessarily lead to a dilution of its quality. Given adequate funds and a proper promotional policy, well planned and vigorously implemented, it would be possible to bring about an expansion of research activity side by side with an improvement of its standards. This, it was said, was what the Council should strive to do.

Methods of Research Support

51. With this general background, we can now turn to a discussion of the different methods for support of research in social sciences.

52. *The Ad-hoc Research Project*: The Council inherited, from the Research Programmes Committee of the Planning Commission, one important tool of research support, namely, grant-in-aid for an ad-hoc research project. In the light of the experience gained, it has elaborated this programme to some extent. In support of this statement, one may cite the ICSSR Research Grants Scheme, 1969 (revised further in 1971) which, apart from simplifying procedures, introduces several new features such as scrutiny of research projects by experts (who are remunerated for their services) before these are considered by the Research Projects Committee, the vesting of the copyright of the research reports in the institutions concerned, relaxation in the restriction on publication of research findings, liberalisation of the grant-in-aid for publication and an immediate release of the abstracts of the research reports. In the discussion of this scheme in the seminars, these improvements were generally acknowledged. But even our improved procedures for sanctioning grant-in-aid came in for

a good deal of discussion and comment. In the light of these discussions and the experience gained over the last two years, therefore, a review of the existing procedure for sanctioning grants-in-aid to ad-hoc research projects is being made separately and will be placed before the Research Projects Committee and the Council in due course. It will deal with all the details of this problem.

53. The Seminars, however, raised and discussed one major issue: how can the Council lay down objective criteria on the basis of which it will judge research proposals submitted to it and what measures can be adopted to ensure that its decisions will not only be fair but will appear to be fair and be accepted as such by the academic community generally? This is all the more necessary because the rejection rate among research proposals will always be high and will tend to be higher. Even in U.K., only about one-fourth of the proposals received get financial support. In such circumstances, the success of the Council will depend upon the extent to which even those social scientists whose research proposals have been rejected will accept the fairness and objectivity of its decisions.

54. Three suggestions made in this context deserve notice. The most important of these is that the Council should function in an open fashion. In other words, the Council should publicise, as it does at present, brief notes on all the research projects that it has sanctioned. If these become readily available, it will be open to the academic community to criticise its sanctions on various grounds such as the quality of the proposal or its priority. No one has suggested that lists of research projects rejected by the Council should also be publicised. It is not obviously desirable to do so on several grounds. But it has been suggested—and this is the second suggestion—that the list of projects rejected by the Council should be given a second examination by some authority of the Council, as a matter of routine, once a year. This is a good idea and deserves a

trial. The third suggestion made in this regard is that the Council should state, in as great a detail as possible, its reason for not accepting a research proposal for financial support and communicate these to the Project Director so that the non-sanction of a proposal can be a matter for academic discussion.

55. Perhaps, the Council suffers from a handicap of its environment in this regard. If a research proposal is *not* sanctioned, the general tendency is to assume that it was not sanctioned because it did not have a godfather just as it is usual to assume that a research proposal receives sanction, less on its merits, but more on the pressures or pulls which the Project Director can bring to bear upon the sanctioning authority. In an environment of this type, one has to go a good deal out of the way to establish one's bonafides and make one's decisions appear fair and objective. This is not an easy challenge to face. But an awareness that such a challenge exists and a deliberate and sustained effort to meet it will go a long way in establishing a tradition of fairness and objectivity in decisions of financial support to research projects.

56. *Teachers' Awards* : As recommended by the Social Science Research Committee, the Council has instituted a modified form of financial support to an ad-hoc research proposal, namely, the teachers' award. The object of this scheme is to provide small-scale financial assistance to individual teachers who are engaged in some worthwhile research of their own. The ceiling to the assistance given has been fixed at Rs. 5,000 and the procedures are simplified to ensure quick decision. For instance, it is referred to only one consultant instead of two; and the final decision on the proposal can be taken by the Research Projects Committee or, even by the Chairman, in cases of urgency. Unfortunately, the scheme has not become popular and the total number of teachers' awards made so far is less than a dozen. This is due partly to the fact that the scheme is perhaps not known widely as yet and partly to the inherent factor that such a scheme can only have limited use. It is also perhaps too early to pass any final judgement on

the scheme. But it would be desirable to continue the programme on the clear understanding that it meets an essential but small-scale demand of the academic community.

57. *Secondary Analysis of Existing Data*: With a view to encouraging secondary analysis of existing data, the Council has decided to provide liberal financial assistance to such proposals. An additional incentive offered is that a research proposal of this type will be considered as outside the ceiling for research projects applicable to a university department or institutions. In spite of these measures, very few proposals in this field are received and only two have been sanctioned so far. Obviously, what is needed is a good deal of promotional work in the academic community itself so that the advantages of this type of research are more readily recognised by the social scientists.

Research Programmes

58. The ad-hoc research project and some of its modified varieties thus form the tools of research promotion which the Council has at present. This situation has its own limitations. For instance, the leading research institutions and the leading social scientists are not adequately attracted by the ad-hoc research project. It also presents several problems of maintaining continuity, especially of trained research staff, which often become irritating and almost insurmountable. Moreover, it is an inadequate tool to attack a complex social problem and rarely will it be able to yield far-reaching and fundamental results which are essential for social policy formulation. What is, therefore, needed is to add another and a more powerful tool to the Council's repertoire for research promotion: a scheme for financial support to *research programmes* as distinguished from *research projects*.

59. It may be recalled that the Memorandum of Association of the Council makes a clear distinction between "research programmes" and "research projects". For instance, Article 3

(b) of the Memorandum of Association says that one of the objectives for which the Council is established is, "to sponsor social science research programmes as well as research projects". Unfortunately, while we have developed a tool to deal with research projects, we have not yet evolved a tool for the more important objective of supporting research programmes.

60. One of the important recommendations of the Shonfield-Cherns Report highlights the need to develop a policy of financial support for approved research programmes. One cannot do better than quote from the report itself :

"Where there is an established programme of ongoing research in the social sciences and the Council is seen as a means of supporting some particular component of it, the ICSSR faces a different kind of problem. Our impression from the discussion which we had at a number of academic institutions is that the Council's contribution in such cases tends to be envisaged as a marginal one. This view has been reinforced by the Council's ruling that any university department or research institute shall be eligible for support for no more than two research projects at any one time. The strategy of choosing the projects which will produce the most advantageous results financially is then dominated by considerations of administrative convenience internal to the university department or institute concerned, with very little reference to any research policy that may have been developed by the ICSSR. The conclusion that we draw is inevitably that a special effort will have to be made by the Council to ensure that the main thrust of the work undertaken by such institutions is in line with the broad direction of research that the ICSSR wishes to support.

That requires an act of commitment on the part of the research sponsor of a rather deeper kind than it makes to the ordinary research project. The more successful institutes and university departments are, on their side, keenly aware of the limiting nature of individual project support. To make a real dent on research problems, whether they are concerned with a single discipline or are of an interdisciplinary character, application-oriented or theoretical, requires more continuity and more patient development than can be undertaken with a small team working over a three- or four-year period. A somewhat longer perspective

is needed—at least five—and up to seven years. That is not to say that the objectives of the research cannot be defined or that their formulation need be loose. But perspectives change with time and rigorous adherence to a plan formulated at the outset would be self-defeating. The institution could of course be asked to split up the proposed programme it has in mind into a series of projects, but this is an artificial and limiting process. The courageous step is to reinforce the promise of such an institution by offering support over a longer period (say 5-7 years) for a programme of research, defined in such a way that the institution is able to vary its approach of attack on the problems in the light of its own experience and considered judgement. Support for such a programme, which can be expensive and implies the provision of comparatively senior posts as well as junior ones, should only be contemplated for institutions which have proved themselves and established their right to a good deal of autonomy in the design and conduct of research. The device of programme support should, clearly, not be used as a means of starting a new research facility from scratch."

61. It is suggested that the Council should adopt this recommendation and initiate a scheme for grant of financial support to research programmes with effect from the current financial year.

62. *Collaboration and Inter-disciplinary Research* : Both the ad-hoc research project, and even the research programme, will generally tend to be located in a single institution and confined to a single discipline. But it is possible to conceive of ad-hoc research projects, and even of research programmes which would involve collaboration—inter-institutional and inter-regional. With some effort, they can also be made inter-disciplinary. It is a special responsibility of the Council to promote such collaborative and inter-disciplinary research. The initiative in this regard will have to largely come from the social scientists themselves. But in some cases, it may be possible for the Council itself to take the initiative. Obviously such collaborative or inter-disciplinary projects will have to be accorded a high priority in research programmes to be supported by the Council.

63. *International Collaboration in Research* : So far, we have discussed only the problem of social science research at the national level, i.e., research projects or programmes of Indian social scientists working in India. But social science research has an international dimension also. Indian social scientists may like to go out of the country and do research on problems of other countries; overseas social scientists may like to come to India for doing research on some problems of their choice; and Indian and overseas social scientists may like to collaborate in some research projects or programmes. The Council has an important role to play in all such activities.

64. *Professional Contacts between Indian and Overseas Social Scientists* : As a first step in international collaborative research, the Council will have to promote professional contacts between Indian and overseas social scientists. Several programmes have been suggested from this point of view.

(i) A scheme is being operated by the Ministry of Education & Social Welfare, for several years past, under which scientists are given partial financial assistance, subject to certain conditions, to participate in international conferences and seminars. Unfortunately, the operation of the scheme was restricted, in practice, to cover only natural and medical scientists. On a request made by the Council, the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare has extended the scope of this scheme to include social scientists also. It has thus become possible to provide partial financial assistance to social scientists desiring to participate in international conferences and seminars. Since this scheme is already being operated from the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, there is no need for the Council to formulate any scheme for this purpose.

(ii) There is one special programme for which, it is found, the social scientists need some assistance. When a social scientist goes abroad to a conference or a seminar (or on invitation from some outside agency), he generally wants to utilise

his time to the best advantage and proposes to pay a visit to certain important centres of research, to meet some distinguished social scientists in his field, or to collect some further data for a work in which he is engaged. This necessitates his stay abroad for some additional time and he requires, not only foreign exchange, but also partial financial assistance. The expenditure involved in such proposals is generally of a small order but its returns far exceed the investment. It is, therefore, proposed that the Council should have a scheme for this purpose. Financial assistance may be provided to social scientists for such programmes at 50 per cent of the cost involved and the entire expenditure, which will have to be incurred in foreign exchange, should be accommodated within the foreign exchange allocated to the Council. No grant-in-aid for passage need be sanctioned under the scheme, because it is assumed that it would already have been covered in some form or the other.

(iii) It has also been suggested that there should be a programme under the Council for inviting eminent social scientists from abroad to pay brief visits to this country during which they will spend some time at important selected centres and lecture, or hold seminars and discussions with Indian social scientists. The visits of Dr. Pendelton-Herring, Mr. Shonfield and Prof. Cherns were found, in practice, to be very stimulating and it has been suggested that inviting eminent social scientists to India should form a regular activity of the Council. This is a valuable suggestion and may be adopted.

65. *Assistance to Indian Social Scientists for Research Abroad*: In its very first meeting, the Council decided, in principle, to provide financial support for Indian social scientists who desire to do research abroad. The general idea was that any Indian social scientist who desires to do some research in other countries would be awarded an ICSSR Research Fellowship which would be adequate in amount for his maintenance and an additional grant-in-aid to cover travel

and other costs involved. The duration of the Fellowship would ordinarily be one year but may be extended to two years or even three. It was also decided that these Fellowships should be available in all countries of Asia and Africa as well as in other developing countries but not in the countries of Europe or America. It was hoped that it may be possible to award four such Fellowships every year. Unfortunately, not a single application has been received so far under this Fellowship programme. Some special promotional effort in this field is, therefore, indicated.

66. The Council decided not to provide any financial assistance to an Indian social scientist who wanted to do research in Europe or America on the ground that other sources of financial support were available for the purpose. The Council was also afraid that, if its fellowships were to be made available for research in these countries, the demand would be embarrassingly large. Representations, however, have been made that this policy should be modified. In particular, it has been represented that, for research on many Indian themes, the original materials are available only in Europe or at the India House Library. In the interests of promoting research on several important themes of Indian life, it is, therefore, necessary for the Council to provide financial assistance to Indian social scientists who would like to spend some time in Europe, and especially at the India House Library, London, for consulting original research material connected with their project. There is a good deal of force in this argument. It is, therefore, for consideration whether the Council should provide, on the merits of each case, some financial support to Indian social scientists who are working on an important theme and who have to spend some time in Europe or at the India House Library for consulting the documents necessary for their research projects.

67. *Permission to Overseas Social Scientists from Developed Countries to Do Research in India*: A fairly large number of social scientists from developed countries, and

particularly from U.S.A., desire to come to India for some research project of their choice. In such cases, the Council is not expected to provide any financial support; and its responsibilities are limited to advising Government on the academic aspects of the research proposed. In each such case, information is called for regarding (a) the bio-data of the social scientist, (b) the details of his research project, (c) the total cost of his project and the source from which it is met, and (d) the institution to which he will affiliate himself while in India. After examination of the data by a Special Committee appointed by the Council, the views of the Council are communicated to the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare which issues the necessary permission after consulting the Ministries of Home and External Affairs (and also other Ministries, if concerned). The general policy is to encourage such research. But, for obvious reasons, permission has sometimes to be withheld when the research proposal concerns a sensitive theme or a sensitive area.

68. The Council has an important role to play in this field. The overseas social scientists realise that their research proposals need scrutiny and that, in the national interest, permission to some of them may have to be refused. Their demand, however, is on two points. First, they would like to have a definite institution or officer to whom they can address all their correspondence; and they would also like to be informed, as quickly as possible, of the final decision of the Government of India so that they can make or alter their plans accordingly. These are legitimate demands and every effort should be made to meet them. It is, therefore, suggested that all this work may be entrusted to a senior officer of the Council who should also work as the liaison officer with all overseas scholars and render them all help that is necessary. This includes problems connected with customs clearance, income-tax exemptions, grant and extension of visas, etc. In the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, a special unit has been created to look after this problem. Consequently, the entire process has been considerably

streamlined and on receipt of an application from an overseas scholar, a definite reply—in the affirmative or in the negative—is generally communicated within about three to four months. For some time to come, it would be necessary to review the working of this machinery from year to year and to streamline it further to the extent necessary.

69. It is also proposed to establish close contacts with social science research councils in U.K. and U.S.A. as well as with important agencies in these countries that award grants for such research in India. It is hoped that such contacts would help to establish better working relations. For instance, one foundation which makes grants for research in India has initiated a practice of referring its proposals, *before* they are sanctioned, for informal scrutiny and clearance; and when it was indicated to it that a certain research proposal would not be acceptable, it has decided not to make the grant. This saves embarrassment on both sides. There should, therefore, be no difficulty if the necessary effort is made, to establish similar working relations with the major important agencies which finance overseas scholars to do research in India.

70. Through the last two years, the endeavour of the Council has been to provide all help that is necessary and possible to overseas social scientists who want to come and do research in India. To a large extent, this has succeeded. These efforts will, however, have to be continued so that international cooperation in research in social sciences is promoted and goodwill between India and these friendly countries is strengthened.

71. Should there be any conditions laid down for grant of permission to overseas research scholars when they come to India for research purposes? This question has been under the consideration of the Council for some time past. Two main ideas are under discussion. The first is that these social scientists should be requested to supply a copy of their research report(s) to the Council for information and record; and the

second is that they might also be required to supply a copy of their data to the Council for storage in its data library. These have not been incorporated in the rules so far because of certain obvious difficulties. But they are being discussed with overseas research scholars and also with organizations that provide financial support to them.

72. *Financial Assistance to Overseas Scholars from Developing Countries* : The case of social scientists from developing countries who would like to come to India for research purposes stands on a different footing. The permission of Government is necessary in their case also. But what is even more important is that they need some financial assistance as well. The Council, therefore, decided that ICSSR Research Fellowships, along with the necessary additional financial assistance to cover travel and incidental costs, be made available to social scientists from all countries of Asia and Africa as well as from other developing countries. Here also, the decision taken was to institute four Fellowships a year. The response to this scheme also has not been very encouraging. Only two social scientists, both from Japan, have availed themselves of this programme so far and social scientists from no other country, either in Asia or in Africa, has put in a request. Probably, the scheme needs wider publicity. This may be undertaken; and as this is a very important scheme, it should be continued and expanded to the extent possible.

73. *Collaborative Research between Indian and Overseas Social Scientists* : While it is necessary to encourage Indian social scientists to do research abroad and to encourage and assist overseas social scientists to do research in India, a still more important programme would be to promote collaborative research between Indian and overseas social scientists. In this connection, the following valuable suggestions have been made:

- (i) The Council should promote collaborative research projects (or preferably a research programme spread

over 3-7 years) between outstanding overseas social scientists and Indian social scientists. Such research should be specially promoted in areas which are important from our national point of view and where such collaboration is likely to result in improving the research skills of Indian social scientists.

- (ii) The Council should also promote agreements with important research institutions in other countries and their counterparts in India for undertaking collaborative research projects or programmes.

It has been emphasized that, in all these programmes, collaboration has to be genuine and earnest and has to cover the entire period from the planning of the project to its final conclusion. The need to ensure equality of treatment between Indian social scientists and their foreign collaborators has also been emphasized. The Council should also provide necessary financial support to the Indian part of the research project or the programme unless, as happens in some cases, funds for this also are available from the overseas sources.

It has not been possible to promote any programmes of this type so far. But the idea has begun to gain ground and some concrete proposals have already been received. It is recommended that this should be accepted as an important area of international collaborative research which the Council should strive to promote, especially as it is likely to result in some extremely well-designed research projects on significant national problems and to help in improving the research skills of our social scientists.

74. *Sponsored Research on Special Themes* : The main assumption underlying all the proposals for research projects or programmes discussed so far is that the initiative for them will come from outside—an Indian or overseas social scientist or institution—and that the main responsibility of the Council will be to respond to it in a constructive and sympathetic manner.

In many important areas of research, however, this basic assumption may not be realised; and the urgency of the problem may compel the Council to take the initiative itself. Such sponsored research will have an important role to play at all times and it will be specially important in the early years of the Council's development. The device has also been used by the SSRC in U. K. which, in such cases, offers a 'Research Contract' to get a particular piece of research done, rather faster than would otherwise be possible, by a selected institution in return for payment. "This has been found to be a valuable device", writes Mr. Shonfield, "more effective than the roundabout method of prompting an institution to come forward with a research application of a specified kind in which the Council is known to have an interest. The actual design of the research contract is made the clear responsibility of the Council—and the Council does not have to wait for the moment when a University Department or Research Institution is ready to fit the desired research project into the existing programme of studies".* The Council has already decided to adopt this procedure and probably the first such contract would be given for the studies of the educational problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In the next few years, this device will obviously have to be more extensively used.

VI

IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH TALENT

75. The measures proposed in the last section will result in expanding the quantum of social science research, in broad-basing it and also in widening its scope to include international collaboration. But a mere expansion of this type is obviously not enough. To get the best results for our investment in social science research, it has also to be directed,

* ICSSR Occasional Monographs, No. 3 *Social Science Research in India*, A Report by Andrew Shonfield and A.B. Cherns, ICSSR, New Delhi, 1971, Para 85.

to a considerable extent, to a study of social problems of significance and relevance and its quality has to be considerably improved. The first of these objectives would be secured by the proposals made in Section IV for the identification of, and an emphasis on, priority areas; and the second would be realised through identification and development of research talent, the programme for which will be discussed in this section.

Doctoral Programmes

76. One obvious field for identification and development of research talent is the doctoral programme in the universities. Several suggestions have, therefore, been made to the Council in this regard. In particular, it has been suggested that the Council should institute a fairly large programme of doctoral fellowships. This was also a recommendation of the Social Science Research Committee. The Council has discussed this programme on several occasions and from all points of view and has come to the following main conclusions:

- (i) The institution of fellowship at the doctoral stage is essentially the responsibility of the University Grants Commission and the universities. If, therefore, it is merely an increase in these fellowships that is desired, the matter should best be left to the UGC and there is no need for the Council to run a parallel programme of doctoral fellowships in the field. The Council may, however, enter this field only if it has a distinct point of view or a special approach or orientation which will not be covered by the UGC programme.
- (ii) In comparison with other programmes which compete for priority on the limited resources available to the Council, a programme of doctoral fellowships can only be ranked very low. The Council should not, therefore, enter the field unless the more pressing demands before it are adequately met.

(iii) Subject to these two broad conclusions, the Council should develop the following programmes for assisting doctoral students :

- (a) Study grants;
- (b) Employment as research assistants on approved projects;
- (c) Clearing-house facilities; and
- (d) Publication grants.

77. A brief description of these programmes is given below :

(a) *Study Grants* : The Council has decided that study grants should be made available to doctoral students to enable them to go to important centres where research materials are available. The grant would cover a prescribed percentage of travel and maintenance costs. A detailed scheme for this purpose is being worked out and will ultimately be operated at the National and Regional Social Science Documentation Centres which the Council will set up over the next few years. To begin with, the scheme would be operated at two points : (1) by the Committee for Administration and Development of the National Social Science Documentation Centre, New Delhi, for those students who want to come and study at Delhi; and (2) by the Office of the ICSSR for those students who want to go and work at any other centre in India. (This arrangement will operate till the regional centres are established.)

(b) *Employment as Research Assistants on Approved Projects* : The Council has also decided that it will be open to the project directors to employ students working for their doctoral degree as research assistants on approved projects. It has also permitted the research assistants so employed to use a part or whole of their work for their Ph. D. degree. This is a very important decision in the sense that it will provide maintenance for a fairly large number of doctoral students if the scheme is

properly utilised by the project directors. A noteworthy feature of the scheme is that it gives a special protection to college teachers who, while so employed on approved research projects, can be treated as on deputation and given their existing salaries, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 900 (consolidated). The scheme has just been circulated to the universities and the research institutions.

(c) *Clearing-house Facilities* : The Council has also decided to develop some essential clearing-house facilities for doctoral students. These will include the following :

- (i) A list of all the theses in the field of social sciences approved by Indian Universities since the inception of the universities to 31st December, 1967 has been compiled and published.
- (ii) From 1968, a volume is being published every year which gives a list of all doctoral theses approved by Indian universities in the field of social sciences in that year. The volumes for 1968 and 1969 have already been published and that for 1970 is under finalization.
- (iii) Synopses are being prepared for all approved doctoral theses in the field of social sciences from the inception of the universities to 31st December, 1969. These will be published, in a series of volumes, centrally from the office of the Council. From 1970 onwards, a separate volume of synopses of doctoral theses in the field of social sciences approved during the year will be published separately.
- (iv) A list of all the students registered for the Ph.D. degree in social sciences in Indian Universities on 30th September, 1969 has been compiled and published. It is proposed to issue a similar publication every two years.

It is hoped that these clearing-house services will be of use not only to the students, but also to the teachers and that they

will help in raising the standard of doctoral work in the field of social sciences.

(d) *Publication Grants* : The Council also gives a grant-in-aid for the publication of approved theses in the field of social sciences. The grant is limited to 75 per cent of the cost of production or Rs. 3,000, whichever is less. In case of theses which are purely of a descriptive character, the ceiling on the grant-in-aid has been fixed at Rs. 1,500. The scheme has become very popular and is being largely availed of.

78. The institution of doctoral fellowships by the Council continues, however, to be a controversial issue. It has been discussed in all seminars and opinion has been sharply divided. Some have held the view that the Council need not provide doctoral fellowships, save in exceptional cases. Others have argued that the Council must come forward with a fairly large programme of doctoral fellowships. The position also varies considerably from university to university and this is one reason for the wide divergence of views expressed. But in spite of the differences on the number of fellowships to be instituted, the consensus seems to be that the fellowships provided by the Council should have a specific focus or purpose. The following are some of the suggestions which have been made in this regard :

- (i) The Council should institute doctoral fellowships in research institutions which are ineligible for a grant-in-aid from the UGC.
- (ii) The Council should provide 'merit' fellowships in outstanding departments in universities and other research institutions in social sciences with a view to bringing our best students under the roof of the best institutions and placing them in touch with the best of our social scientists.
- (iii) The Council should provide some financial assistance to doctoral students whose work involves a journey

outside India to any developing country and particularly to the countries of the Asian region. It has also been suggested that the assistance of the Council should be limited to cover the expenses of the foreign trips.

ICSSR Research Fellowships

79. The Council has initiated a programme of research fellowships which begin at the post-doctoral stage and cover all social scientists right up to a senior university professor and even social scientists working outside the universities. The scheme has been popular and well-received. It deserves to be expanded as much as possible.

National Fellowships

80. It appears that some confusion has arisen in this programme because of a mixing of two objectives with contradictory connotations. One objective, as stated when the programme was initiated, was to honour a distinguished social scientist through the award of a fellowship; and a second objective, also simultaneously stated, was to help social scientists at all levels to engage themselves, for a specified period, wholetime on an approved research project. If the first objective was allowed to dominate, the awards would be too few to meet the purpose of the Council. On the other hand, it is not also desirable to treat distinguished social scientists along with post-doctoral students under the same scheme and in the same manner. It is, therefore, suggested that, in future, the ICSSR Research Grants Scheme should be restricted to cover only the post-doctoral students and social scientists working at the lecturer, reader and professor levels. In addition, the Council should institute a small number (say, not more than six at any time) of National Fellowships which should be available only to outstanding social scientists. No application for these fellowships should be entertained and the offer should be made by the Council itself. Before the offer is made, the proposal

should have to be examined and supported by a panel of three to five consultants specially constituted by the Council for the purpose. It may even be desirable to include one or two consultants from overseas in the panel. The duration of the fellowships should be for a period of two or three years but they may be renewed for another period of two years and not beyond.

Training in Research Methodology

81. There was unanimity of opinion in the seminars on two issues, namely, the need to provide training in research methodology as a means of improving the quality of social science research and the development of a good programme for training in research methodology under the auspices of the Council. Opinion was, however, sharply divided on the emphasis to be placed on this programme. Some social scientists were of the view that training in research methodology was of great significance in improving the quality of research and that it should be given a high priority by the Council. Others opined that a fundamental grounding in the discipline proper was of far greater significance than training in mere methodology as such and that, if quality of social science were to be improved, a joint effort should be made by the University Grants Commission and the Council to improve the teaching of social sciences at the undergraduate and postgraduate level, side by side with imparting adequate training in research methodology.

82. As a first step in the development of its programme, the Council undertook a survey of the existing position in the universities and research institutions in regard to training in research methodology in social sciences. The survey was conducted, on behalf of the Council, by Shri P. Ramachandran of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, and his report on the subject has already been published.* The Council has also

* ICSSR Occasional Monographs No. 4, *Training in Research Methodology in Social Sciences in India*.

appointed a Standing Committee on Training to develop programmes of training in research methodology under the auspices of the Council.

83. Four important programmes have been proposed by the Standing Committee on Training after examining the report of Shri P. Ramachandran from all points of view:

(i) *Instruction in Research Methodology for Doctoral Students* : The Standing Committee found that at present very little systematic effort is being made to provide course work and training in research methodology to doctoral students. It is of the view that university regulations on the subject have to be amended suitably to provide that every student registered for a doctoral degree in social sciences shall undergo, in the first year of his study, a regular training course in research methodology and some course work. A beginning in this direction may be made in a few selected Universities in a period of five to ten years. The Council proposes to take up this matter with the University Grants Commission. Pending the developing of this programme, the Committee has decided to arrange ad hoc training courses for Ph.D. students.

(ii) *Instruction in Research Methodology at the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Stages* : Yet another programme proposed by the Standing Committee is that suitable courses of instruction in research methodology should be included in the different social science disciplines, both at the undergraduate and postgraduate stages, so that every student of social sciences who takes his Master's degree and joins a doctoral programme would already have been oriented adequately to the essentials of a research methodology. For this purpose, it has set up study groups, separately for each discipline, to examine the existing position and to make recommendations regarding the manner in which adequate courses of instruction in research methodology would be included within the teaching of the different social science disciplines, both at the undergraduate and postgraduate stages. When the reports of these groups

are ready—and it is hoped that they will be ready before the end of the current year—they will be taken up with the UGC and the universities for implementation. The Standing Committee has also proposed that, in order to improve the quality of such training, the Council should conduct summer institutes for teachers who would be required to teach these courses in research methodology.

(iii) *Long-term Training Courses* : The long-term training courses (of about a year's duration) in research methodology are not very popular because there are very few careers in research work as such which are open at present. The Standing Committee, however, hopes that these careers will increase and that there would be an increasing demand for such courses. It has, therefore, proposed that the Council should provide financial support for approved long-term courses in research methodology. The assistance would cover only a non-recurring grant-in-aid for equipment and a recurring grant to cover stipends to trainees. All other expenditure on such courses will have to be met by the institutions conducting the courses from their own resources. The scheme has just been introduced.

(iv) *Full-time Training Centres* : The Standing Committee also thinks that it will be necessary, as programmes of training in research methodology develop, to establish a few good full-time training centres for research methodology. A beginning in this direction has been made by the establishment of the Survey Research Training Centre at New Delhi by the Council for Social Development. But one centre cannot meet the needs of a vast country like ours. The Standing Committee has, therefore, requested the Council for Social Development to examine its out-put; and at the same time, it visualises, in the course of the next few years, establishment of at least a few regional centres of this type.

(v) *Training Abroad* : When the large-scale programme of training visualized here develops, there will be need, according to the Standing Committee, for sending a few social scientists

abroad for training in the more sophisticated modern techniques of research in different social sciences so that they can man these specialised training centres on their return. A programme is being worked out.

Infrastructure for Research

84. Yet another series of programmes, which will help in improving the quality of research, is to build the essential infrastructure. The Council has been seized of the problem and, for the last two years, it has been striving its best to develop the necessary supporting services for promoting quality in social science research. These programmes have broadly been welcomed and it has been suggested that they should be continued and expanded on a priority basis.

85. Some of the major programmes in this sector have been described below:

(i) *National Social Science Documentation Centre* : From the current year, the Council has established, in collaboration with the Jawaharlal Nehru University, a National Social Science Documentation Centre at New Delhi. At present, it is located in the building of the Library of the School of International Studies where one floor has been placed at the disposal of the Centre by the University authorities. Ultimately the Centre will be located on the campus of the University. The major activities which have been undertaken by the Centre include : (a) collection of all doctoral theses in social sciences approved by Indian universities from 1970 onwards; (b) a data library; and (c) a reprographic unit. The Centre is also in charge of the Council's major project of compiling a Union Catalogue of Current Social Science Periodicals. It is proposed that the Centre should also develop a repository function in respect of old volumes of social science serials which it will accept for deposit from any collaborating library. The Centre will hold such volumes in trust on behalf of the cooperating library, maintain them in good condition and make them available to all research workers. With effect from the current year,

the Centre will also operate, as stated earlier, a scheme of Study Grants. For the administration and development of the Centre, a Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

(ii) *Regional Social Science Documentation Centres* : The Council has also decided, in principle, to set up regional centres for social science documentation which will function on lines similar to those of the Social Science Documentation Centre, New Delhi. Ultimately, a regional centre will be established in every State and it is hoped that the programme would be completed during the next five years. Each regional centre will be located on the campus of a selected university and it will have a committee of management consisting of the various universities and research institutions within the region. It is also proposed to involve the State Governments and to seek their assistance for the establishment and running of these regional Centres.

(iii) *Bibliographical and Documentation Services* : The Council has also decided to develop a comprehensive network of bibliographical and documentation services in all social sciences. The essential idea underlying the scheme is that an institution which has the necessary personnel and which has shown interest in bibliographical and documentation services in that field should be encouraged to develop specialised bibliographical and documentation services in that field because it can do so with the minimum investment of additional resources. Two proposals have already been approved, namely, the proposal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics to index all articles on agricultural economics appearing in standard periodicals (1955-70) and the proposal of the Indian Council of World Affairs to bring its series on documentation on Asia up-to-date. Other proposals are being considered. With the help of the Standing Committees, which have been set up for the different disciplines, the Council hopes to build up a comprehensive network of the essential bibliographical and documenta-

tion services for all social sciences in the course of the next three to five years.

(iv) *Data Libraries and Data Banks* : On the same lines as indicated above, the programme of data libraries is also proposed to be developed. The Council has also set up a Data Utilisation Committee whose objective is to ensure that more and more data is made available to social scientists and that the available data is more intensively utilised. A beginning in this direction is proposed to be made with the Census Data of 1971. To strive to improve the quality of social science data is another function of this committee.

(v) *The Union Catalogue of Social Science Serials* : One of the major projects undertaken by the Council is to compile a union catalogue of social science serials. Preliminary work in this direction was done in 1970-71 and the compilation of the catalogue has been started in earnest from 1971-72. It is hoped that the programme will be completed in three years, i.e. by the end of 1973-74, at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 lakhs. This is one of the programmes of the Council which has been very widely welcomed. It may also be stated incidentally that a Union Catalogue of Current Periodicals in Social Sciences will also be published as a part of this programme.

VII

CLEARING-HOUSE SERVICES (INCLUDING PUBLICATIONS)

86. As a central and the most important organisation for promoting research in social sciences, the Council will have to undertake a number of clearing-house responsibilities. These have been briefly discussed in the paragraphs that follow.

Student Research

87. A reference has already been made, in Paragraph 77 (c), to the clearing-house functions which the ICSSR has

assumed in respect of student research, namely, the publication of lists of all doctoral theses in social sciences approved by Indian universities, publication of the synopses of all such theses, and publication of lists of students registered for the doctoral degree in social sciences in Indian universities (biennial).

Non-student Research

88. It is also necessary to collect and publish information about non-student research in social sciences. The Council has, therefore, decided to collect such information from all universities, affiliated colleges, etc., and to publish it every two years. The first such publication for the year 1970 has been compiled and will shortly be published.

National Register of Social Scientists

89. The ICSSR has also decided to compile a National Register of Social Scientists. A Working Group, set up by the Council, has worked out all the details such as the lists of social sciences to be adopted for the purpose, the criteria for the inclusion of a social scientist in the National Register, the agency through which the data will be collected, the form of the questionnaire in which information about each social scientist will be obtained and the broad outline of the report in which this information would be analysed and published. The questionnaire prepared for the Register is now being pre-tested by the Delhi School of Social Work. It is proposed to initiate this programme in the course of the next three or four months. The project is expected to take about 18 months for completion.

Directory of Research Institutions

90. Information about social science research conducted within the university system is not difficult to obtain. But information is not readily available for the large number of research institutions in social sciences which are outside the university system. The Council has, therefore, decided to compile and publish a directory of research institutions which

are functioning outside the university system. Whatever data was available till 31st March, 1971, has been finalised and is being shortly published. But it is felt that these data are far from complete and that there are several research institutions in the field of social sciences which have not figured in this directory.

91. It is not clear how information about research institutions outside the university system can be collected comprehensively. Perhaps the publication of these periodical directories themselves will make such institutions more anxious to send information about them to the office of the Council. As time passes, the Council will also come to know these institutions more closely and comprehensively. The scheme of grants-in-aid introduced by the Ministry of Education & Social Welfare to social science research institutions outside the university system will also help, because many of them would like to avail themselves of these grants-in-aid. Finally, the national and regional social science documentation centres of the Council, when established, will be in a much better position to collect full information about such research organisations and make it available for the directory. The Council will, therefore, continue to make intensive efforts to make these directories as complete and comprehensive as possible although, for obvious reasons, they will succeed only over a period of time.

Contacts with Overseas Social Science Research Councils, Important Social Science Research Institutions Abroad, and Overseas Social Scientists Interested in India

92. It would obviously be a great assistance to the development of the programmes of the Council if it can maintain close contacts with Social Science Research Councils in other countries. This has, therefore, been made a special responsibility of a senior officer of the Council and attempts are being made to exchange publications with them and also to arrange, wherever possible, exchange visits of representatives. Similarly, it would also be an advantage if the Council can maintain close

contacts with important Social Science Research Institutions abroad which are specially interested in India. Such contacts would help exchange of data, exchange of research personnel and development of collaborative research projects. It is especially necessary to build up such contacts with research institutions in developing countries. This work also has, therefore, been made a special responsibility of a senior officer of the Council.

93. It has also been proposed that the Council should maintain a directory of overseas social scientists who are interested in India. This will be of help to Indian social scientists when they want to contact overseas scholars who may be interested in common problems. This is also a good suggestion worthy of adoption.

Publications: General Policy

94. In a country where the publication industry has been very greatly developed, as in U.K. or U.S.A., a Social Science Research Council need not provide grants for publication of research findings on any substantial scale. The situation in India is, however, different. Our publication industry is not yet quite strong; and unless some subsidy is available, the findings of social science research may not be published quickly or may not even be published at all. It is, therefore, necessary for the Indian Council of Social Science Research to accord a higher priority to publications within its programmes than what has been done in U.K. or U.S.A.

95. The Council had adopted a two-fold programme in the field of publications. The first is to issue certain categories of publications under its own auspices; and the second is to give grants-in-aid to publications brought out by other agencies.

96. *Publications directly brought out by the Council* : Publications brought out directly by the Council fall into two categories—non-priced and priced. The most important of the non-priced publications is the *ICSSR Newsletter*. This is

brought out quarterly and each issue is of about 20 pages. At present, the Newsletter is sent free of cost to all universities, social science departments in universities, affiliated colleges having postgraduate courses in social sciences, research institutions, Ministries of the Government of India, State Governments, etc. It can also be supplied to any individual or organisation on request. Among the other non-priced publications, mention may be made of official publications like the annual reports or rules and regulations. Occasional Monographs which deal with important policy issues or themes (e.g. report of Dr. Pendleton-Herring on the Development of Social Science Research in India), Research Abstracts (which publicize the findings of the research projects supported by the Council) and publications connected with the clearing-house functions (e.g. the Directory of Research Institutions).

97. The priced publications of the Council include reports issued under the Research Survey Scheme, 1970, certain publications relating to current research such as lists of students who were given the doctoral degree in social sciences and research abstracts. In the beginning, such publications were managed exclusively by the Council's office. It has now been decided, however that they should be farmed out between a group of selected leading publishers on a contract basis. This will reduce costs as well as promote sales.

98. On the whole, the publications of the Council have been well received and commended.

99. *Grants-in-aid for Publications* : The Council's programme of financial assistance to publications brought out by other agencies is much larger and has been well appreciated. Reference has already been made to grants-in-aid for publication of doctoral theses. The other programmes of grant-in-aid are briefly discussed below.

100. *Assistance to Journals*: The Council has adopted a very limited programme of financial assistance to journals under

which a grant-in-aid, of not more than Rs. 7,500 per year or Rs. 25,000 in a Plan Period, can be given to a journal conducted by a professional organisation of social scientists functioning at the national level. A further condition is that the journal must have been in existence for two or three years before the grant-in-aid is given. The number of journals to be assisted in a discipline is also restricted to one, except in Economics where the ceiling has been raised to three. An alternative form of assistance to such journals is to help them to create an endowment of Rs. 1,00,000 out of which Rs. 25,000 are to be collected by the professional organisation concerned, Rs. 25,000 are given by the Council and Rs. 50,000 are given by the Ford Foundation. During the last two years, a grant-in-aid of Rs. 5,000 per year has been given to one journal in the field of Geography and endowments of Rs. 1,00,000 each have been created for two journals in Economics, one in Sociology and one in Psychology.

101. There has been a continuous pressure for increasing financial assistance to journals. The first point of attack has been that journals, other than those conducted by professional organisations of social scientists, should be assisted and that the Council should provide assistance to a few good journals in each discipline, solely on their merits, and irrespective of any consideration as to who conducts them. It has also been suggested that the Council should give assistance for starting new journals in important fields. It is, however, neither possible nor desirable to change the present policy of very limited assistance to journals. The programme has obviously low priority. Moreover, the number of journals in the field of social sciences is so large—more than a thousand—that both selection and adequate assistance become extremely difficult, if not impossible.

102. The policy of assisting professional organisations of social scientists functioning at the national level to conduct journals has also been challenged on the ground that these organisations are not in the best of positions to conduct good journals. While this is true in some cases, the assistance of the Council has only been given to journals of long standing and

good status. Moreover, this is one of the programmes of assistance to professional organisations of social scientists who find that the conduct of a journal is one important means through which they can render professional service to, and build linkages with, their members. There is, therefore, no reason to change this policy which takes into consideration several important factors besides the quality of the journals.

103. The Council also offers publication grants for reports of research sponsored by it. The grant is limited to 75% of the total cost of production and, unless there are very strong reasons to the contrary, is subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5,000. It does not insist on copyright being given to it nor does it expect to share in the sale proceeds. All that it asks for is that its financial assistance should be properly acknowledged and that it should be given 25 copies of the publication, free of charge. This financial support is also made available to reports of research projects sponsored by other sources. It is also given for the publication of seminar papers, provided they have a high research content.

104. On the whole, the programmes of grant-in-aid for publication, initiated by the Council, have been well received and commended.

VIII

PROGRAMMES WHICH HAVE NOT RECEIVED ADEQUATE ATTENTION SO FAR

105. There are some important programmes to which the Council has not yet been able to give adequate attention. These include: (a) Utilization of Social Science Research; (b) Improvement in data generation and its more intensive utilization; and (c) Taking appropriate steps towards the preparation of a periodical social report.

Utilisation of Social Science Research

106. Apart from helping to produce social science research of good quality, it is also the responsibility of the Council to

promote diffusion and utilization of research. This is a complex and difficult problem and unfortunately the issues did not receive adequate attention in the discussions. There is not much guidance available even from U.K. and U.S.A.

107. Diffusion is comparatively easy. The Council has given full freedom to the project directors to publicise their findings. It has also decided to publish abstracts of the research reports sponsored by it and has extended the same services to researches sponsored from other sources. Its publication grants help in the same direction ; and so do its clearing-house services about all research in social sciences—whether student or non-student.

108. It is an important programme to diffuse the findings of social science research beyond the boundaries of the academic community, but very little is being done at present in this regard. In this context, we may well adopt the suggestion made by Mr. Andrew Shonfield and Prof. A.B. Cherns: "Better diffusion could be achieved", they have said, "by stimulating researchers to write pamphlets embodying the principal features of their research, but excluding the more technical and methodological aspects, and couched in language directed towards the potential user rather than to an academic audience. The former Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the United Kingdom used to sponsor such "Industrial Versions" of the research which it supported, and they enjoyed wide circulation in industry. The Council should endeavour to encourage this type of *haute vulgarisation* and similar developments in scientific journalism.*

109. But mere diffusion is not enough. The processes which transform research findings into policies and programmes are complex and very little is known about them. The Council has not been able to do anything in this important field so far and obviously we will have to grope our way for some time to

* ICSSR Occasional Monographs *Social Science Research in India* : A Report by Mr. Andrew Shonfield and Prof. A.B. Cherns, para 71.

come. The following recommendations of Mr. Shonfield and Prof. Cherns may be kept in view in this context:

"Diffusion is not enough. Research in general is effectively used only when close relationships over a period of time exist between researchers and administrators. The administrator has to acquire the ability to use the concepts of analysis which underlie the social scientist's approach to problems; the social scientist has to acquire familiarity with the nature of the administrator's problems, in the form and conceptual framework that they present themselves to him. The Council's task, therefore, is to seize whatever opportunities occur for systematic communication between researchers and administrators of all kinds.

One device for accelerating the research-action process is "action research". Another is the demonstration project. Both are somewhat outside the normal academic definitions of research. Both involve the researchers in action in a way that places upon him responsibilities beyond those of conducting research. Where the conditions are appropriate, the Council should be prepared to play a part in the stimulation and sponsorship of these types of activity. This would usually be a third part—with the user and the researcher as first and second in importance and commitment. Reluctant participation by either of these two is a sure recipe for a negative outcome.*

Improvement in the Generation of Data and its Intensive Utilization

110. As an important tool of research, the Council is also called upon to study carefully the data that are now being generated by various official and non-official agencies and to take steps in improving them so that they become more amenable and meaningful for purposes of social science research. It has also to take suitable steps to make these data known and available to social scientists and to ensure that they are as intensively utilised as possible. For these purposes, the Council has set up a Committee on Data Utilization which has just started its work. Steps are now being taken to recruit suitable staff and it is hoped that

* *Ibid.*, paras 72, 73.

its programmes will begin to gather momentum before the current year is over.

Social Report and Social Indicators

111. As an important objective, the Council would like to evolve social indicators regarding social progress and change in India. In this context, it has broadly accepted the following recommendation made in the survey of Behavioural and Social Sciences recently carried out by the National Academy of Sciences and the Social Science Research Council in USA:

"The Committee has considered several steps to strengthen the behavioural and social sciences, both as sciences and as contributors to public policy.

One step is to develop improved social indicators: measures that reflect the quality of life, particularly in its non-economic aspects. Some data for constructing social indicators now exist. We have data on educational opportunities, adequacy of housing, infant mortality, and other statistics bearing on health, highway accidents and deaths, violent crimes, civil disorders, reflections of cultural interests (library use, museum and theatre attendance), and recreational activities. We now need a major effort to find indicators that can accurately reflect trends for the nation as a whole as well as differences among regional, sex, age, ethnic and socio-economic groups. Most social changes are gradual. A sensitive social indicator should tell us whether, in the area to which it pertains, things are getting better or worse, and to what degree.

Social indicators should help us measure the effects of social innovations and changes in social policy as well as assess their unintended by-products. New methods of construction as well as changes in building codes could be reflected in changes in indicators of the quality of housing. Broad programs for increasing highway safety might affect accident indicators and also the consumption of alcohol under certain circumstances.

Indicators that measure our economic state are in use, but they are not precisely analogous to the social indicators we are proposing. Economic values can be expressed in dollars, and economic indicators can be aggregated to pro-

duce a single economic unit, such as the gross national product (GNP). There is no corresponding unit of value by which to measure the quality of life. This is not an obstacle to the development and use of separate quantitative indicators each of which measures some aspect of the quality of life even though it may not be possible to combine them into a single number.

The development of a useful system of social indicators is not simply a matter of measuring many aspects of society. The central problem is to decide which among many measurable attributes most truly represents the fundamental characteristics with which we are concerned. Thus, progress toward valid indicators will depend largely on the understanding we obtain from research into the basic structure and processes of our society. Conceptual and theoretical work at the highest level is necessary if we are to interpret the changes taking place.

To expedite the development and use of a system of social indicators, we recommend that substantial support, both financial and intellectual, be given to efforts under way to develop a system of social indicators and that legislation to encourage and assist this development be enacted by Congress.

We believe that the resources of the federal government will have to be called upon to develop successful indicators. The estimated annual cost of running an organization to carry on developmental work is \$ 1.5 million. Access by such an organization to data routinely collected by federal agencies would facilitate its work. Because the effort would be in the national interest, we suggest that the task of developing social indicators be undertaken directly by the government; several alternatives for locating an indicator agency within the federal system have been discussed in the main report.

If social indicators are to be useful to society, they will have to be interpreted and then considered in conjunction with the making of social policy. Just as the annual Economic Report of the President interprets economic indicators, an annual social report should eventually be produced that will call attention to the significance of changes in social indicators.

Because of the particular problems involved in developing sound, workable social indicators, we are hesitant to

urge an official social report now. We favour, instead, a privately sponsored report, during the next few years, perhaps through the initiative of either the National Research Council or the Social Science Research Council, or through a joint effort of the two.

If such an annual social report proves substantial after reasonable experimentation, it might then become a government responsibility like the annual economic and manpower reports now made for the President."

Available literature on the subject has been obtained and is being studied. As a further step in the programme, the Chairman participated in the International Conference of Social Indicators which was held at Ditchley Park, Oxford, April 2-5, 1971. His report is being submitted to the Council separately. It is proposed to set up a Working Group to initiate further steps in this direction.

IX

SIGNIFICANCE OF PROGRAMMES OTHER THAN GRANT-IN-AID.

112. This long discussion of the different programmes to be promoted by the Council may now be concluded with one important observation: it is extremely important for the Council to continue to emphasise the development of its programmes, other than grants-in-aid to research projects. Today, the grants-in-aid which the Council disburses are very small. But these will grow and the Council's budget may be increased, over the next ten years, to about Rs. 30 million a year. But the Council's success need not depend upon its capacity to disburse large sums of money and, as Dr. Pendleton-Herring has pointed out, "its usefulness would even be curbed if it were to be regarded as primarily a source of financial aid". If the basic objectives of the Council are to be achieved, it will be essential to develop, side by side, the major programmes of the Council other than grants-in-aid for research, namely, research surveys and identification of priority, discovery and development of research talent (including provision of fellowships and training in research

methodology), building up the essential infrastructure for social science research (including bibliographical and documentation services) and clearing-house functions. These will not cost much money but will need a good deal of effort in planning and organisation. But, as I have said, they will fertilise the entire field of research. The Council should, therefore, make it a point to allocate an adequate portion of its resources (say 20%) to the development of these programmes and ensure that they are properly nurtured.

X

ORGANISATION, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

113. Against the background of the preceding discussion on the role, special responsibilities, functions and programmes of the Council, we might now turn to a discussion of its organisation, administration and finance. Surprisingly enough, these problems have received the highest attention in the discussions and have raised several important issues.

The Problem of Autonomy

114. As might be anticipated, the problem of the autonomy of the Council has been in the forefront of all discussions of the organisational issues. This was emphasized by Dr. Pendleton-Herring who said: "the maintenance of autonomy is of profound importance for the success of the ICSSR. Involved is not only freedom from undue political or bureaucratic pressures but also detachment from insidencies that may come from academic or professional quarters". It has also been emphasized by Mr. Shonfield and Prof. Cherns. All the seminars have also opined that it should be the prime concern in the administration of the ICSSR.

115. In the present situation, there are three main factors which, it is said, can endanger the autonomy of the Council: (a) all its members are nominated by the Government; (b) all its funds are also provided by the Government; and (c) a number of

senior officers of Government are its members. Various suggestions have been put forward as alternatives to these conditions :

(i) One category of suggestion put forward is that all or some of the members of the Council should be elected in one form or the other. It has been suggested, for instance, that half the members of the Council should be elected by professional organisations of social scientists and/or by universities and research institutions. Other varieties of electoral colleges have also been proposed. It will not be easy to provide a system of elections to the Council and it would be rather naive to assume that a mere introduction of the principle of election in some form would necessarily improve the situation and not merely substitute pressures of one kind by another.

(ii) On the financial side, it has been suggested that the Council should try to create an endowment of Rs. 100 million for itself so that its dependence on the Government of India alone for financial resources would be substantially reduced. Some steps to this end were examined but did not succeed. In this case also, there seems to be no alternative: the Council will have to continue to depend entirely on the Government of India for its financial support.

(iii) The inferences drawn about the presence of some senior officials of Government on the Council are probably exaggerated. The number of these officers is limited to six. They have not been nominated on the Council to reduce its autonomy or to influence the independence of its decisions. Even if they wanted to do so, they would not be able to achieve the purpose as they are in a hopeless minority. On the other hand, it is also possible to argue that their presence on the Council has helped in bringing the official users of social science research and the academician together in a meaningful dialogue and has helped to raise the status of the Council itself.

The Council may consider all aspects of this problem for which there is no easy solution.

116. It is interesting to find how different groups have reacted to these three aspects of the solution. Among the Indian social scientists, the most criticised aspect is the authority vested in Government to nominate all the members of the Council and their favourite proposal of reform is to introduce some form of elections. Dr. Pendleton-Herring attached the greatest significance to the financial issue but he was not much concerned over the fact that Government nominates the members of the Council or over the presence of the senior Government officials thereon. Mr. Shonfield and Prof. Cherns found it quite acceptable that all the members of the Council should be nominated and its funds provided by the Government of India, perhaps because the same situation exists even in U.K. They, however, found the presence of senior officers on the Council to be objectionable, again perhaps because there is no precedent in U.K.

117. In the Indian context, the autonomy of the Council will depend mainly upon the quality and the character of the individuals who may happen to be members of the Council from time to time and upon the close working relationship they will develop with the academic community at large. This has been well illustrated by the University Grants Commission. Its members are all nominated by Government. Its funds also come entirely from Government and it has also a component of senior Government officials among its members—a component which, incidentally, is even proportionately larger than in the Council. If, in spite of these factors, the UGC has been able to maintain an autonomy of its own, the credit goes entirely to the personality of its Chairman and Members and the confidence they have continued to win from the academic community itself. It is in this that the Council will have to seek the sources and strength of its autonomy rather than in the innumerable devices of doubtful utility which have been put forward as alternatives.

Principle of Rotation

118. Whether all the members of the Council should be nominated, as at present, at the end of every term of three years

or whether there should be a system of rotation is another important issue which has been raised. For instance, Dr. Pendleton-Herring observed that "a Council such as we are considering is better thought of as a process rather than as a rigid organisation. It is a changing pattern of human relations—at the outset, experimental in nature and readily to be changed or adjusted. Thus it would seem appropriate for staggered terms so that membership of some portion of the Council is regularly altered at yearly or biennial intervals." The suggestion has found support in several quarters.

119. This issue was also discussed when the Council was being constituted; and after considering the problem from all points of view, the following decisions were taken :

- a. The term of the Chairman of the Council and of the members should not be co-terminous but should be so arranged that the term of the Chairman overlaps two terms of the Council. To achieve this, the term of the Council was fixed at three years, and the first Chairman was given a term of five years, the term of subsequent Chairmen being limited to three years only. The advantage of this arrangement is that the Chairman would preside over two consecutively re-constituted Councils and would thus provide a certain measure of continuity.
- b. The term of the Council was limited to three years. But it was left open to Government to re-nominate some members for a second and a consecutive term but no more. It was assumed that such a rule will provide for the establishment of a convention under which about half the existing members in one term of the Council may be dropped and the other half re-nominated. A process of rotation even amongst the members would thus automatically set in.

Perhaps this system is adequate to provide a certain rotation and continuity in the personnel of the Council. All

that is necessary probably is to reiterate the establishment of the convention referred to above.

The Chairman and the Member-Secretary

120. The status and responsibilities of the Chairman and the Member-Secretary have come in for a good deal of discussion. One point made was that both the Chairman and the Member-Secretary should be eminent social scientists who should not be holding any office under Government and who should also not be Government servants on deputation. This is a valid point and is, in fact, the accepted Government policy on the subject. In the case of the first Chairman, an exception was made in spite of his being the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission with a view to getting his guidance in the initial years of the Council. Similarly, an exception was made for the first Member-Secretary who has a number of administrative responsibilities to discharge to place the Council on its feet. These transitional devices have served their purpose. The Chairman of the Council is now a non-official social scientist, and very soon the Member-Secretary also will be one. However, a point has been made that this matter should not be left to a mere convention and that there should be a specific provision in the constitution of the Council that its Chairman and Member-Secretary shall both be non-official social scientists of eminence. The suggestion is worth being pursued.

121. There has been some discussion about the status of the Chairman and whether he should be honorary or paid and his relationship with the Member-Secretary. The present constitution of the Council is based upon the current model for autonomous organisations of the Government of India in which the Member-Secretary or Director is a full-time paid official while the Chairman is honorary. A fear has been expressed that this will lead to a bureaucratisation of the administration in the Council even if the Member-Secretary were to be recruited initially from the academic community and that an honorary Chairman will not be able to exercise an effective

control over policies and programmes. It has, therefore, been suggested that a better model for the Council to adopt would be that of the University Grants Commission where the Chairman is paid and full-time and his Secretary is an officer of the Commission, but not its Member. It is also argued that, under this model, it will be easier to obtain the services of an outstanding social scientist who can be more easily persuaded to become the Chairman rather than the Member-Secretary.

122. Mr. Shonfield and Prof. Cherns have suggested a third model. They would like the Member-Secretary to continue to be a paid full-time official as at present. But they would also like to have a whole-time and paid Chairman. Doubts have been expressed about this model, especially in view of the fact that the size of operations in the Council may not justify the appointment of two such high-level officials. It may also be pointed out that this model is likely to lead to conflicts between the Chairman and the Member-Secretary as both of them are members of the Council and have direct access to the Members to present their points of view.

123. The issue is fortunately still open and it is suggested that the Council may consider it in depth and take a firm decision.

Relations with Other Agencies

124. One of the major administrative issues relates to the relations of the Council with the Government of India, Universities, professional organisations and the academic community of social scientists generally. A number of suggestions in these aspects have been put forward.

Relations with the Government of India

125. The Council has been established by the Government of India which retain certain powers over its functioning. It also provides all the funds needed for its programmes. In spite of this, it is essential that the Council should function, not

as a government agency but as an organisation of social scientists. In this regard, the observations of Mr. Shonfield and Prof. Cherns are extremely significant. They say:

It seems to us important not only that the Council should avoid the role of a Government agency exercising surveillance over all social science activity, but should also be seen to be avoiding it. The community of social scientists should be in no doubt that the function of the ICSSR is to represent them. The Council should also be the channel through which the government communicates its needs and desires to them; but when the Council itself makes a decision, it should be clearly understood that it derives from the views of the social scientists who act as the guardians of academic aims and standards in their disciplines.*

Relations with the State Governments

126. It has not been possible as yet for the Council to build up close relations with the State Governments. But Mr. Shonfield and Prof. Cherns have made some important suggestions in this regard which deserve to be adopted and followed up. They say :

In this connection, the relationships of the Council with the State governments is of especial importance. Not only are some state governments major sponsors of social science research; all are potential users and many of the results of research invite interest and action more within the ambit of state governments than of the central government. Although ICSSR receives its funds from the Federal Government, it should avoid being seen by state governments as an exclusive servant of the Centre. It must be recognised, however, the social science research policy is not something which is best determined at state level; every aspect of it transcends state boundaries and state responsibilities. Thus the ICSSR needs to be seen by the States as a resource, a source of help and advice, as the voice of the social science community as a whole—but not as an embodiment of superior power.

Because there is no single identifiable user within the state government organisation, social science research

* ICSSR Occasional Monographs No. 3, *Social Science Research in India*, Para 36.

having relevance to almost all departments and agencies, it would be advisable to invite state governments to nominate one of their senior officials to act as liaison officer with the Council. These officials might also be invited to serve as "assessors" to the governing body of the regional centre which serves their State. But all such arrangements, it should be observed, are the formal trappings of a more essential, and elusive, process—the active cultivation of close personal relationships between state administrators on the one hand and the Council's members and officers on the other.*

Relations with the University Grants Commission and the Universities

127. The Council will have to establish close working relations with the University Grants Commission. Negatively, care will have to be taken to avoid duplication and overlap; and on the positive side, steps will have to be taken to promote social science research and to improve its quality in a joint endeavour. In the ultimate analysis, research cannot be separated from teaching nor from the quality of the researchers. It is the University Grants Commission and the Universities on whom rests the primary responsibility of providing for good teaching and for maintenance of a good faculty which can undertake quality research. The programmes of the Council can only be super-imposed on this foundation and will, in their turn, help to strengthen these foundations themselves. A close and continuing collaboration between the UGC and the Council is, therefore, essential.

128. Under the present arrangements, the Chairman of the UGC is a member of the Council. Dr. D.S. Kothari, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, was of the view that, instead of trying to formalise this matter, it is better to work together and allow the ideal pattern of cooperation and collaboration between the UGC and the Council to evolve over time. The Council has been working on this basis and has

found willing support from the UGC in all proposals. The most recent and important event in this field is the appointment of a Joint Study Team for examining the status of social sciences in agricultural, engineering and medical education. The experience of the last two years justifies the confidence that the programmes of cooperation and collaboration between the UGC and the Council will multiply in several fields.

129. The Council has also been receiving full support and cooperation from the universities; and this will be strengthened further when the professional staff of the Council will be in position.

Relations with Professional Organisations of Social Scientists

130. The importance of building up good relations with professional organisations of the social scientists and utilising their potential for the promotion of social science research has been greatly emphasized in all discussions. The issue was raised by Dr. Pendleton Herring and also by Mr. Shonfield and Prof. Cherns, who said :

One of the achievements of the ICSSR to date has been to induce Indian social scientists to communicate more with one another. The condition for the effective pooling of knowledge and research effort is that people at work in a given field should have the most up to date information about the work being done by their colleagues. The timely identification of duplication of research can be as valuable as identifying "research gaps". It would be extremely convenient if the task of keeping social scientists in touch with the work of colleagues in the same discipline could be performed, as it is in some other countries, by a number of appropriate learned societies. We think that the Council could usefully contribute to the building up of Indian learned societies. Their performance at present varies greatly in quality in the different disciplines. In some instances, a comparatively small subsidy to support the production of a learned journal or of abstracts of new research would very likely produce worthwhile results. But this is much less certain in other cases.

We would, therefore, recommend that any financial support given to the professional associations should pro-

* ICSSR Occasional Monographs No. 3: *Social Science Research in India*, Para 74-75.

ceed on an ad hoc basis, beginning with modest amounts, and with some kind of performance tests built into the contract made between the learned society concerned and the ICSSR. There might, for example, be a trial period during which the society would show whether it was able to build up a substantial paid circulation within the profession which it serves for a publication receiving an ICSSR grant. It would be useful if the Council were to include a consideration of particular devices of this kind in a systematic examination of its long-term policy towards the learned societies.*

131. The Council has accepted these recommendations. As stated earlier, it has offered grants-in-aid to professional organisations of social scientists for conducting a journal. In addition, it has also sanctioned developmental grants for a specified period. Under the present decision, the number of organisations to be assisted, which must be functioning at the national level, is restricted to 10 and the grant-in-aid to an individual organisation has a ceiling of Rs. 10,000. So far, one organisation has been sanctioned a grant-in-aid of Rs. 10,000 and grants-in-aid of Rs. 5,000 each has been sanctioned to four other organisations for a period of five years beginning with 1971-12, in addition to a non-recurring developmental grant of Rs. 5,000 given in 1970-71. The grants are also subject to the condition that the organisations concerned shall raise certain minimum contributions of their own.

Relations with the Academic Community

132. The Council will have to establish close relations with the academic community of social scientists in all its programmes and especially with its Committees and Working or Study Groups. It augurs well for the future that efforts to this end have been made successfully right in the very first years of the Council's existence. This has established a healthy tradition which can be developed still further.

* ICSSR Occasional Monographs No. 3, *Social Science Research in India*, Paras 68-69.

Committee Structure

133. The Council necessarily functions through a large number of Committees and Working Groups. Some of these are ad hoc, or constituted for a specific purpose, and dissolve themselves as soon as that purpose is served. But there are also statutory and standing committees.

(i) **Administrative Committee:** Under the rules of the Council, there has to be an Administrative Committee which can consist only of Members of the Council. It looks after all administrative and financial matters.

(ii) **Research Projects Committee:** It is also obligatory on the Council to constitute a Research Projects Committee. Not more than three Members of the Committee may be persons who are not Members of the Council. This Committee sanctions (or recommends as the case may be) all grants-in-aid for the different programmes of the Council.

(iii) **Committee on Documentation Services and Research Information:** This Committee advises the Council on its clearing-house functions and especially on programmes relating to bibliographical and documentation services.

(iv) **Committee on Training:** This Committee looks after all the programmes of the Council relating to training in research methodology in social sciences.

Standing Committees for Different Disciplines and Programmes

134. The Council has also decided to establish Standing Committees for different disciplines. Committees have accordingly been set up for (1) Political Science (including International Relations), (2) Economics, (3) Sociology and Social Work (including Criminology), (4) Psychology, (5) Social and Cultural Anthropology (including Ethnology and Ethnography), (6) Commerce, (7) Economic, Human and Political Geography,

(8) Management and (9) Public Administration. These are very important Committees. Most of the members of these Committees are not Members of the Council and they, therefore, build a bridge between the Council on the one hand and the academic community on the other. On them, representation is also given to professional organisations of social scientists functioning at the national level. The significant responsibilities which have been entrusted to these Committees can be seen from their terms of reference which are quoted below :

- (a) To keep in touch with the developments in their respective fields including their various sub-fields and specialisations within the disciplines, and to present a periodical report thereon to the ICSSR;
- (b) To advise the ICSSR in preparing panels of consultants in their respective fields;
- (c) To advise the ICSSR on the broad priorities and programmes of research in their respective fields;
- (d) To advise the ICSSR on areas within the disciplines that need special effort or promotion and development;
- (e) To advise the ICSSR on training programmes, with special emphasis on research methodology and programmes of data utilisation and data aggregation in their respective fields;
- (f) To advise the ICSSR on the development of bibliographical and documentation services in their respective fields; and
- (g) Generally, to advise the ICSSR on all matters referred to it from time to time on measures necessary to promote research in their respective fields.

Standing Committees have also been set up for special promotional programmes undertaken by the Council. These include Standing Committee for (1) Research into Problems of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Muslims, (2) Data

Utilisation, (3) Foreign Aid and Overseas Research Scholars. The Council has also established a Planning Group to advise it on election statistics and a Working Group to advise it on the national register of social scientists.

The Professional Staff of the Council

135. If the Council is to be able to discharge its onerous responsibilities efficiently, it must have a fair component of professional staff. This point was highlighted and emphasized by Mr. Shonfield and Prof. Cherns. The Council has accepted the view and has sanctioned a total professional staff of eight officers, excluding the staff of the National Social Science Documentation Centre (which has been established) and the Regional Centres which will come into existence in the next five years or so. This staff will have to be further strengthened as the work of the Council expands and, ultimately, the Council will need a staff of about twelve professional persons of whom about five would be in the scale of pay of Professors, five in the scale of Readers and two in the scale of Lecturers. This full complement of staff would be recruited over the next five to seven years when the funds of the Council are expected to increase to about Rs. 20 million a year.

136. The professional staff would be so selected as to represent all the major social science disciplines and the different types of skills and expertise required to implement the various programmes initiated by the Council.

137. Whether this professional staff should be recruited on a permanent basis or whether it should be recruited on deputation terms for a period of five years at a time (to be extendable for a further term of five years in deserving cases) is one of the issues which the Council has been debating upon. The two main dangers in an organisation like the Council are that its administration will tend to be bureaucratised and vested interests would grow and try to use it for purposes of sectional

patronage rather than for the wider social objectives for which the Council has been constituted. If these dangers are to be avoided and if a freshness of outlook and vigour is to be maintained in the administration of the Council, it is very essential that its senior staff, including the Member-Secretary, should be recruited on contract basis for 5 to 10 years, rather than on a permanent basis. At the most, one or two officers on the professional side may be recruited on a long-term basis to provide a certain continuity. But that should be the very maximum. It may also be pointed out that, even under a contract system of appointments, continuity can still be provided by spreading the recruitment over successive years than making them all at one and the same time.

138. The following observations of Mr. Shonfield and Prof. Cherns regarding the recruitment and functioning of the professional staff of the Council are extremely significant :

The Council has begun to make its presence felt in the universities and research institutes through the conferences and other meetings which it has sponsored in the course of the comprehensive surveys of Indian research in the social sciences. If this relationship with the academic world is to develop and expand, it will place on the Council the need to maintain a process of continuous monitoring of work going forward in the social sciences. It would involve regular contacts with staff—junior staff as well as senior—in several hundred university departments and research institutes. Those making this intellectual circuit would plainly have to be knowledgeable in one or more of the social science disciplines, and to be thoroughly familiar with recent developments in their particular areas of expertise. Only if the representatives of the Council are people of accepted academic standing, will it be possible to engage effectively in the continuous dialogue that is needed with persons engaged in research in the universities and institutes.

The conduct of such a dialogue is plainly much too onerous a task to be added to the already considerable responsibilities of the academics who are members of the Council or of its advisory committees. It calls for the full-time employment of a corps of professional social scientists,

acting under the supervision of the Chairman of the Council and its Member-Secretary, but operating with a considerable measure of intellectual autonomy. As we envisage the functions of such persons, they would be typically academics of medium seniority—senior lecturer to reader level—though it is important to be clear from the start that the posts themselves would not be filled exclusively by career academics but would be open to trained social scientists who are active in other spheres, including the government service. The main desideratum is that these people should be able to hold their own as intellectual equals in their exchanges with their main clients in the academic world.

We would be inclined to regard the recruitment of such staff as one of the most urgent and difficult tasks of the Council. The problem is how to attract the services of men and women of the required intellectual calibre, and special arrangements may have to be made to accommodate people who are willing to contemplate a temporary period of employment in the job of managing research but wish to go back eventually to academic or other pursuits. What is required is some very flexible terms of appointment, especially tailored to meet the needs of people other than those who are ordinarily recruited into the public service.

It is also clear that the introduction of a core group of professional social scientists with considerable freedom of manoeuvre and influence over the management of the Council's day-to-day affairs will involve important changes in the head office structure of the ICSSR. An organisation in which the senior staff has considerable intellectual initiative of the kind indicated above requires something different from the conventional managerial chain of command of a government office. Our own experience of the British SSRC indicates the importance of a collegiate style of decision-making at head office. The professional social scientists who have devoted themselves to a period of research administration will not perform effectively in a strictly hierarchical organisation. Indeed it is unlikely that they would find service in such an organisation attractive in the first place. Moreover, the efficiency of the Council itself, depending as it does on the constant communication of impressions and ideas about what is happening in a field which is changing extremely fast, requires that the personal views of the professional social

science staff should register directly at the level where administrative decisions are taken.*

Office Organisation

139. A good deal of effort has been made to place the working of the Council on an efficient and economic footing. The necessary Rules and Regulations have been formulated, a Manual of Office Procedure has been compiled and care has been taken to train the staff in both. The officer-oriented system of work has been introduced so that the number of persons employed is small and the work of the Council is quickly and efficiently despatched. Even in the course of the last two years, the office of the Council has established a reputation for promptness and efficiency. It should be an endeavour to strengthen these foundations. A separate report is being prepared regarding the administration of the Council and it will be placed before the Council in due course after consideration by the Administrative Committee.

Site and Buildings

140. The Jawaharlal Nehru University has kindly agreed to give accommodation for the National Social Science Documentation Centre on its campus. It has also agreed to provide facilities to the Council to have its own Guest House and Students-cum-Teachers Hostel. The Council is very grateful to the authorities of the University for this collaboration.

Administrative Costs

141. The minimum administrative costs for an organisation like the Council would be about Rs. 4,00,000 a year. The maximum would come to about Rs. 8,00,000. The economy of administrative expenditure will, therefore, depend upon the total resources provided to the Council. It has been assumed that

* ICSSR Occasional Monographs No 3, *Social Science Research in India*, paras 76-79.

these resources would be of the order of Rs. 10 million by the end of the Fourth Plan and Rs. 20 million by the end of the Fifth Plan. On this basis, these administrative costs are fully justified.

Finances

142. An important principle has been adopted by the Council in the management of its finances, namely, it will not accept any permanent recurring liabilities. Its grants-in-aid are, therefore, being sanctioned for a specified period which does not go beyond five years. This will make it possible for the Council to utilise its funds for new ideas and ventures and to function, as it were, at the frontiers of social science research. This is a very fundamental principle which will have to be continuously observed in the larger interests of the promotion of social science research in the country.

143. The financial administration of the Council has been very well organized.

XI

A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY

144. The general consensus in the academic community has been that the establishment of the Council is both welcome and opportune. During the last 25 years, and especially after the establishment of the University Grants Commission in 1956, a number of university departments in social sciences were created and strengthened. Side by side, several research institutions grew up outside the university system. The number of highly qualified and trained social scientists also increased several-fold and the quantum of total research in social sciences increased from year to year, with considerable improvement in its quality. But further progress was being held up in the absence of adequate financial support and a proper machinery to plan and guide the development of social science research and its utilisation in the country. The Research Programmes Committee of the

Planning Commission did a very useful service at this critical period, but by 1965, it was finding itself inadequate to meet the challenge of the situation. The establishment of the Indian Council of Social Science Research was, therefore, a step in the right direction and it did not come a day too soon.

145. It is necessary to note that considerable hopes have been aroused by the establishment of the Indian Council of Social Science Research. There is, to begin with, a *minimum* expectation. The academic community expects that the Council will make financial support available for the development of social science research in a big way and that, through its training programmes, it will add materially to the research competence, now available. The Council is also expected to provide the necessary infrastructure for social science research through its information, documentation, and bibliographical services, including maintenance of data libraries and provision of publication grants. While these would be important gains by themselves, the Indian public in general and the academic community of social scientists in particular have also an *optimum* expectation from the Council. The nation has now pledged itself to bring about a planned reconstruction of our society. It is, therefore, naturally expected that the work of the Council should help to provide better insights into our social problems and their solutions and thereby make a definite contribution to planned social change in India. The Council is also expected to help the Indian social scientist to play his proper role in nation-building and to help the universities and colleges to build closer links with their local communities through their programmes of research. In addition to promoting inter-disciplinary research and strengthening national integration by promoting inter-regional communication and collaboration, the Council is also expected to promote goodwill in our international relations, particularly with other developing countries, by providing opportunities to Indian social scientists to undertake research outside the country and by inviting social scientists from these countries to do research

in India. If these high hopes have to be fulfilled, close attention will have to be paid to problems relating to the role, functions, programmes and organisation of the Council. They thus provide a unique challenge as well as an opportunity.